

was unmeasurable. So here a landowner who willingly has given up one farm, willingly gave another easement for a dollar after having watered livestock for thirty-nine years from that source of water, after having tried to cooperate with people who I know to be reasonable, people who I respect and admire, suddenly found himself without water for livestock and had to move livestock from a pasture in a period of drouth because he didn't have water. Now, ladies and gentlemen, there is something about government authority. We all know what it is, that when you give that authority sometimes it creates abuses. When you take property by eminent domain, it is a final act. There is no more adjudication. There is no more benefits. It is gone. I think we need to recognize that there needs to be some limitations. Ladies and gentlemen, you can vote for this bill or don't vote for it but bear in mind that Natural Resource Districts, as the Game and Parks a number of years ago, will one day abuse the wrong people and we will find someone come roaring in out of the east and require and request and demand that this Legislature provide protection for the individual homeowner or landowner or businessman. It depends all upon whose ox is being gored. Ladies and gentlemen, I am as interested in conservation as any member of this body. I have served for twelve years as a member of a watershed board. I never drew a dime for the expenses that I incurred during that period of time. We never condemned any property. We never took land without willing buyer, willing seller and we got easements for a few pennies or a few bucks. When to begin to take property from people for conservation purposes or when you need an easement, farmers for the most part are willing to give it for a minimum cost but if you take it for a purpose of recreation, the cost increases and justifiably so. If I want, if Senator Beutler, Senator Hoarland, my other friends in the city want to spin around my farm and my lake, that is fine with me but there ought to be some compensation for the individual who gave up the property and I think that none of us would argue with that. The ability to use eminent domain puts the individual in a very unfair position. Now you can sit here today, you talk about the lobbying forces that exist in this Legislature and outside. As I said earlier, the majority of the Natural Resource Districts would never use it, will never use it, don't have to use it, prefer not to because there are other ways. If you will review the booklet that I gave you, the Natural Resource Districts were given twelve responsibilities. Only one of them deals with recreation. The balance of them deal with the more important areas, the conservation of soil and water, the natural resources of this state. Senator Kremer drew the law well and I respect him for it and none of us, again, none of us oppose the utilization of the structure or the water impoundments as a side