

April 10, 1981

LB 243

SENATOR SCHMIT: Who decided Mr. Hudkins wanted more water than he was (interruption).

SENATOR CLARK: We can only have one at a time talking please.

SENATOR SIECK: Yes. Mr. Hudkins.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Thank you, Senator Sieck. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I don't like...I am not in the habit of having my integrity challenged on this floor. I think that Senator Sieck came precariously close to doing that and I will say this. Mr. Hudkins is a man of honor. Mr. Hudkins has explained it to me in the manner in which I explained it to you. I will check with him and I will bring the facts back to you, and if they are not as I have told you, I will tell you so. It is entirely possible that Senator Sieck is correct. I gave the facts to you as I knew them to be and as I believe them to be. This is not the only instance that has occurred in that same Natural Resource District. I have had complaints other than that also. I want to point out also, and I suppose that someone is going to challenge that, that irrigation rights have been denied to landowners who have provided easements for dams after the crop was planted and after it was planted for irrigation purposes. We can argue all day long, ladies and gentlemen, about the technical points that Senator Sieck has raised. You can decide who is right and who is wrong at a later date. The point I want to make is this, that if this Legislature believes that in a time of shortage of funds it is in the public interest to expend funds for recreational purposes where the benefits of that structure exceeds seventy-five percent, then so be it. But let Senator Sieck and let someone else explain that to the taxpaying public, and when you go to that water development fund and want to increase it for water development purposes, ladies and gentlemen, you are going to have a hard time. I don't think the Budget Committee is going to pump. I think they are going to say, very rightly so, let Mr. Mahoney come to us for recreational purposes. He has done very well by this Legislature and he knows how to handle those funds. We have done one thing, we have taken from the Natural Resource District, from the Game and Parks Commission the right of eminent domain for recreational purposes and we have granted it now to 24 autonomous entities and it is much more difficult to supervise the 24 than it ever was an individual Game and Parks, and if you cloak it in the aura of respectability...

SENATOR CLARK: You have one minute left.