

April 10, 1981

LB 243

Lincoln because that is where the people are and we do have a dearth of recreational facilities around Omaha or Lincoln and I hate to see anything that would cut down the number of projects that are within one or two or three hours drive from those urban areas. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I, of course, rise in opposition to the kill motion. I want to tell you very frankly I would hope, I know that some of you have been very busy, but I would hope you would read a little bit of the proposal I placed upon your desk, page 2. I want to recite for those of you who have not read it the principal functions of the Natural Resource Districts as outlined by the Legislature: Number one, erosion prevention and control. Number two, prevention of damages from floodwater and sediment. Three, flood prevention and control. Four, soil conservation. Five, water supply for any beneficial use. Six, development, management, utilization, conservation of groundwater and surface water. Seven, pollution control. Eight, solid waste, that should be solid waste disposal and sedimentary drainage. Nine, drainage improvement, channel rectification. Ten, development and management of fish and wildlife habitat. Eleven, development and management of recreational and park facilities. Twelve, forestry and range management. Ladies and gentlemen, those are the twelve objectives that we outline for the Natural Resource Districts. All of a sudden we are saying the only thing that is important is recreation. Senator Hoagland refers to the eastern third of the state. There is miles and miles and miles of shoreline, both river and streams and lakes, in those areas. I can tell you very honestly that I have seen no dearth of those facilities in this eastern part of the state. I have seen no reluctance on the part of people to travel to other parts of the state to take advantage of those. I know that he says he supports and he is interested. I understand the importance of surface water storage. I applaud that, Senator Hoagland, and I hope that includes the support of the Norden Dam structure. I know that there are many of us here in this body today who are definitely, and I think all of us are definitely concerned about those important aspects of soil and water conservation which was the original responsibility of the Natural Resource Districts and all of a sudden there are people who are arising and saying that if a project is one hundred percent for recreation purposes it ought to be okayed. Ladies and gentlemen, the City of Omaha just, I don't know if they passed a bond issue for a \$4 million