

the authority of eminent domain in order to accomplish their projects. It is as simple as that. The watershed district was given this same authority and their mill levy was limited at one mill, to accomplish the project which we now see around the City of Lincoln. Now we talk about recreation and that is why the urban people are for it. I want to assure you that all of the project built within the Salt Valley watershed, the benefits and the cost-benefit ratio was strictly flood control, very, very, little benefit as far as recreation. But I can also assure you if we would have this amendment attached, as Senator Schmit proposes, we would have had many court battles, ~~and~~ that it was recreation, and I have heard it many, many times from several individuals, "You are building it just for recreation", even though the cost-benefit ratio was strictly for flood control and none else. Yet they said it was built for recreation. Today if you go to Pawnee Lake, Twin Lakes, Branched Oak, you will say a hundred percent of that project is built for recreation for that is how it is used but the actual reason for that project was flood control and I can assure you that some of those individuals in those projects, if they would have had any leg to stand on on the recreational factor, they would have fought that to no end, and that goes with a lot of smaller projects. Of course, now we have eliminated the larger project with that five hundred acre surface acre thing. Again I can assure you that we are going to have projects in the Upper Blue that are going to be six hundred, seven hundred acres, if we are going to catch that surface water that leaves the Blue River basin and we need it up in that area. We need those water projects. We need it to give supplement water to the underground water.

SPEAKER MARVEL: You have thirty seconds.

SENATOR SIECK: We are losing that water in that particular area and I want to emphasize that we do need these projects and I don't think we should jeopardize and cause bad legislation as I feel this is doing. I have a lot of confidence in the Natural Resource Districts and that is the reason I have got my kill motion up here and I think the primary purpose again is land treatment and every one in that area knows it and they are trying their best to do this. Thank you. I will talk later.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Kremer.

SENATOR KREMER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was going to blame you for not recognizing me all morning but I just found out Senator Schmit has been turning my light off.