

April 10, 1981

LB 243

So I appreciate the privilege this afternoon. I was going to speak against the bill but it is just as effective to speak in support of the kill motion so I will take that route. I speak in support of the kill motion perhaps for a different reason that many of have spoken to this morning. If there is one thing the Nebraska people have been saying, that is this, that we want to continue to develop irrigation as we know it in Nebraska, and in order to do that, as we look down the road and see what is going to happen, we have reasonable assurance we are going to come close to doubling the use of water and the requirement for water in the State of Nebraska. There is no way we can do this unless we stop some of the water that is leaving this state and store it. I have the same apprehension that others who are supporting the bill have indicated this morning. In fact, there is a project being planned in my district that is going to involve about three or four hundred acres of our own property. I don't like it, but I realize that if we are going to do it, we are going to have to do, some of us are going to have to give up something here and there. Now I don't think I could support the concept of taking the right away for condemnation if it were ninety percent and I will tell you why. No matter what it is, whenever there is one person that is objecting, he is going to take you to court. We know what that can mean, it means delay, delay, delay, delay. That has been demonstrated in the large projects as well as some of the smaller projects. Let me illustrate what one person can do. This morning I talked to former Senator Jules Burbach on the Mandan line that we need so desperately in Nebraska to meet this peak load that we are experiencing in the summer time. Senator Burbach said I now live in Hartington and last week I went back to Crofton, my former home, and he said I got clobbered like I never have before by my friends. Who were these friends that had supported him all these years? He said they were a couple of fellows that were involved with the Mandan line. It will cross their property and he said, "I really take a beating". Those fellows said in no way are we going to give up to the Mandan line. No matter what they offer us. Now if we are going to stop projects like that and like our water storage problems, we have got trouble like you never heard of. I think that most of the memberships at least of the NRDs are...they are rural people in most cases. They are reasonable people and neither do they want to condemn anyone's property. I wouldn't. None of us would. Sometimes the time comes when we have to. Now then I will agree that the purpose of the Natural Resource Districts was outlined very clearly by Senator Schmit. I agree with him, to all points. We have seen a change in things. Today you build a project and recreation just

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