

May 1, 1981

LB 385

PRESIDENT: Motion carries. The Wagner amendment to the committee amendments is adopted. Now any further amendment?

CLERK: Just adopt the....

PRESIDENT: Go back to Senator Schmit then on the committee amendments.

SENATOR SCHMIT: I move the adoption of the committee amendments as amended by the Wagner amendment.

PRESIDENT: All right, motion then before the House is the adoption of the committee amendments as amended. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record the vote.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of the amended committee amendments, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Motion carries. The committee amendments are adopted. Now the Chair recognizes Senator Schmit on the bill itself.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I introduced LB 385 at the request of Mr. Lee Orton of the Nebraska Natural Resources Districts. The reason is to provide a method of low cost funding for soil and water conservation and land treatment programs. We are well aware, of course, of the need for this kind of activity. There is approximately 10 million acres of crop land in the State of Nebraska that needs conservation treatment, about 12 to 15 million acres of pastureland. The treatment that is necessary is expensive. The results from the treatment is not immediately...is not an immediate return to the farmer. As a result of this many farmers are unable to go out and provide the kind of necessary land treatment that is commensurate with good conservation practices. We have seen a resurgence of interest in soil and water conservation treatment. We all recognize the necessity of having some adequate water conservation methods employed on the farms. We recognize that the most effective method of conservation of water and soil is that which takes place on the land as it has been evidenced for many years and the individual land treatment is tremendously important. This kind of financing would be perhaps able to be handled by a local agency such as a local bank. The Natural Resources Board of Directors would serve as the Board of Directors of the Conservation Corporation. The expenses would be paid out of the income of the corporation. The amount of money that we expect to be issued annually will be somewhere between