

May 12, 1981

LB 243

Resource Districts from a willing buyer willing seller agreement. It will not prevent, in my estimation, any of the projects that are currently under way. It will not damage the Natural Resource Districts ability to handle water development projects that are legitimate, and I would hope that you would vote to advance the bill. And I would hope we would not have to take a lot of time on the bill, and if you have any questions, I would be glad to try to answer them. But the bill has been discussed and debated. There has been a kill motion on the bill which was unsuccessful. I think the bill is ready to be acted upon and I am willing to go ahead with it on that premise.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Kremer.

SENATOR KREMER: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I find it difficult to oppose LB 243 in many respects because I agree with about 90 percent of what Senator Schmit has talked about when he spoke in support of the bill. However, I can see nothing but problems down the road a ways on any project that is proposed. I hope I am able in a minute or two to impress upon this group how important it is that we build some storage in this state of ours. I have tried it before. I will attempt again. I have here at my desk a notice that a conference has been planned to take place in Minneapolis, Minnesota entitled, "The Water Crisis". The subtitle is this, "Who Gets the Last Drop?". I understand Senator Clark informed me that the conference has been called off because of the tremendous expense involved in calling a conference like this by the National Conference of State Legislators. However, it alerts us to what is before us in our country. I also have before me an article coming out of the Science '81 supplied to me by Senator Schmit, and I'm going to use it against you, Senator Schmit. The title of this particular article is, "Rationing a River", which alerts us again that most of our major river systems are overappropriated, the major ones, like the Colorado. That remains only one thing for us to do and that is take advantage of everything that we can to build storage and take of the rainfall, take of the unappropriated water if it's there and store it. Now our problem is this, every storage proposition that I know of that has been planned has someone that refuses to sell. So if this bill passes, if this bill passes, I can see some real difficulty in moving ahead into construction of the project, simply because it is almost impossible to determine how much value recreation shall have on the project. There is a film that's been put together by, and it's entitled... it's been put together by the Nebraska Water Resources