

May 12, 1981

LB 243

Impossible. I urge this body to turn down this LB 243 if you are really serious about increasing the waterholding capacity of the State of Nebraska, and I will remind you, as Senator Kremer pointed out to you so well a while ago, there are areas of this state where we desperately need these facilities and are going to need them much worse in the future. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Haberman.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President and members of the body, it really boils down to a little simple thing, either you support the concept of local government or you don't. Either you support Natural Resource Districts or you don't. Now we just voted the Natural Resources Districts to be able to set management control areas, to control what? Water. And what has been said over and over and over is the most important thing in this state is water, and we gave the control of that in a new era to the Natural Resources Districts. Now if they...we just also gave them the authority to have more taxing authority. We said the NRDs can handle this, so we voted to let them have more taxing authority. If they can handle responsibility, if they can handle the responsibility and this body knows they are, of the amount of water that can be used on the crops that are raised in this state, which affects everybody, and if they can handle the responsibility of spacing water wells in this state, which affects every citizen, and if they can handle the responsibility of metering water wells and see that they work and see that everybody is conforming to the law, if they can handle those, they can handle the other problems. We have given them a tremendous amount of responsibilities and they have been doing the job. Those that haven't, they have heard from their local people. Now let's let them be responsible in this field and if they are not responsible, let the local citizens, not this body, call it to their attention. I ask you to oppose LB 243. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Remmers.

SENATOR REMMERS: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I just want to speak briefly in support of 243. We speak of local control but I think we all recognize that local control has guidelines set down by the Legislature. We are always setting guidelines for local control and I think this is proper, and I see nothing wrong with our trying to set some guidelines for the Natural Resource Districts. Let's remember that the Natural Resource Districts, the guidelines that were set out for them, that recreation was