

SENATOR SCHMIT: Yes, Mr. President.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Or two or three or four, perhaps, and I...I recognize perhaps you don't maybe want to publicly state some things and if so, say so. But, you know, we've been under the impression in the Appropriations Committee as we've had the requests for these funds that these were necessary. And I guess, to some degree, we would be getting mixed signals and I guess I was wondering why, at least from our appropriations process, we hadn't been aware of this earlier of this need in this so, first of all, and second is can you mention where the areas of compromise are because, I mean, as long as I've been here in four or five years I've been led to believe that this is a very, very serious long-term issue and to give up easily is...is very serious consideration. And so I...I don't know how much you can or care to expound on it but I would be interested in more, you know, enlightenment on that issue.

SENATOR SCHMIT: I will be, if I may, Senator Wehrbein, give you some information. The Deer Creek project will impound about 9,500 acre feet of water, not hardly...not a significant amount of water. They propose to store that water from flood runoff and snow melt above the normal flows. In...in contrast, there are some lakes in western Nebraska which are filled out of the Wyoming flow, we call them the Inland Lakes, Lake Alice, Lake McPherson, I forget what the other one is. Anyway they call them the Inland Lakes. When we first began to debate as to whether or not Wyoming should be allowed to build the Deer Creek Reservoir, Wyoming countered by saying, okay, we will shut off...since you don't have a permit to fill the Inland Lakes, we are going to shut off the flow under...we will no longer honor the 1904 agreement. The facts were there was no permit system in place back in 1904. Today there is. But there really isn't any sympathy in Wyoming to turn off the water to the Inland Lakes. They're glad to do that. They're glad to fill those lakes and they have told us that and their engineer will say that. But, most of all, the legislators say that. Number two, when Mike Jess proposed that they be allowed to build Deer Creek in exchange for filling the Inland Lakes, their engineer didn't even communicate that to the legislators. I do not know if he told the Governor. I strongly suspect he did not. When he told me what he had proposed, I communicated that, along with other legislators, to the Wyoming Legislature and they said, why didn't we know about it. This is what it's all about. We will still discuss the winter flows in the Laramie and some other