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function, and that is this dam, and this dam has been held up because of that recreation function. In the hearing on this matter it was very telling, in my opinion, because nobody, nobody seriously argued that the two roads that needed to be closed were important. That would be the proper prerogative of the county to argue on behalf of those roads, to fight for them, if they were important. But nobody argued that. What became clear at the hearing was that the county had found a leveraging mechanism to try to force the NRD to, as a minimum, cut out the recreation benefits of this project. This project would sit halfway between Omaha and Lincoln, it would sit on the recreational trail that's being built between Omaha and Lincoln, it would provide a halfway point stopover for families coming out of Omaha for an afternoon or a day of recreation and going back, it would provide the same thing for the people of Lincoln, it would provide the same thing for the people of Cass County. But certain people have this narrow view that somehow recreation is not a proper part of an NRD's operation. And that, it seems to me, is statutorily their prerogative, and each and every NRD has the power to determine to what extent and where or when there should be a recreation component to its projects. In this case,...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN PRESIDING

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...the Lower Platte South said there should be a recreation component in one of 19 dams. And now the county is saying, no, we get to second guess the NRD on the project itself; it's not about roads, it's about the county being able to second guess the NRD on the project itself. You may have seen in the paper recently the articles about the huge influx of people into Cass County. Cass County is changing rapidly; it's becoming urbanized rapidly. And to me that means a couple of things; the people of Cass County, before too many years have passed, are going to want all of the recreational benefits, all of the recreational opportunities close to them that they can get.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Time. Senator Vrtiska.