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FLOOR DEBATE

January 26, 2004 LB 32

Norfolk, Nebraska. It was in a building that I owned that had been built in 1904. Beginning then and going on through all the flood control projects that the city of Norfolk has been favored with, because it had...the lower part of town was flooded on several occasions and we finally got that taken care of in the sixties, but a portion of what the city does is manage storm water. They manage sewers, they manage disposal, they manage water treatment. That's what they're there for. Now, this mandate, which now covers three cities and a few counties, is also granting to the NRDs and to, eventually, like I say, not at the present time, but in the future, additional taxing powers beyond that now stipulated by statute. Is that a correct statement?

SENATOR SCHROCK: That is correct, but only for storm water runoff, to address this federal mandate.

SENATOR TYSON: Well, I understand...

SENATOR SCHROCK: They can't use that taxing authority for other purposes.

SENATOR TYSON: ...I understand that the purpose is that the money is sequestered, as it were. But what it comes down to is that the homeowner and the resident owner are going to be paying additionally for one of the basic services that a city and/or an NRD provide.

SENATOR SCHROCK: The city does not collect...will not have their taxing authority expanded, other than collecting the fee. In other words, their levy will be expanded, but they...

SENATOR TYSON: Okay.

SENATOR SCHROCK: ...can collect the fee. They can collect the fee. But a tax is a tax is a tax.

SENATOR TYSON: Okay. Well, in other words, the...I guess what I'm saying is, I'm involved with a bill now that is getting a lot of opposition because there's a users fee involved. And I'm just wondering if there's going to be a special kind of money