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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 217

the community college and the ESU and all the different government agencies and the veterans' service officer start talking to each other under the same roof, that's a benefit for citizens. I look at my own community, and I look at a city administration building that was built in 1939 under the WPA, and I look at our...you know, when FDR was President. And then I look at our school administration building that was built in 1902 when Teddy Roosevelt was President. And the services and the buildings are just outdated. They're nonfunctional. This brings them together. They work together to build a building, and that's what I saw as the major benefit, was building a building we could be proud of, that has services under the same roof. And that's why I introduced the bill.

SENATOR MINES: Thank you, Senator Flood. I'm curious how NRDs and storm water drainage was included in the bill. Is there any background on that?

SENATOR FLOOD: This bill--and it has quite a history--has been introduced by Senator Connealy and Senator Janssen, and is the outgrowth of a...of the Innovations...

SENATOR MINES: This isn't your idea?

SENATOR FLOOD: Not the NRDs and the storm water drainage. But the public buildings I'll take all the credit in the world for.

SENATOR MINES: (Laugh) Okay. Okay.

SENATOR FLOOD: But I value what NRDs do. I, in private practice, represented NRDs, and I find their work to be very valuable. I just see what they're attempting to do, on some levels, exceeds the \$5 million. And I don't know that there's many projects that they do that are substantive that would benefit from this bill.

SENATOR MINES: Thank you. And again, maybe that's where I was coming from in committee when we talked about this amendment. The storm water and drainage and flood control, as Senator Beutler has rightly pointed out, and as you and I had a conversation before this bill was introduced, there is a...it's