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FLOOR DEBATE

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flow meters on their wells. Are they going to use that money to study models to see where their ground water, what the recharge rate and that sort of thing is? If you'll notice the Upper Niobrara White, they have the whole area blocked in, but a lot of that is the Sandhills and there's areas in there that they don't know anything about what the model is or what the recharge rate is. But yet the whole area got designated as fully appropriated, and until that's studied and changed there's some subdistricts in there that probably aren't fully appropriated. It shows the whole north end of that district up there as fully appropriated, and yet there are very few irrigation wells up there. It shows the northwest corner up there. In the northwest corner over on the...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR LOUDEN: ...north side of the Pine Ridge that I don't think there's hardly a good stock well up there, let alone an irrigation well, and that's all...is fully appropriated. And those people will all pay a property tax right along with everybody else. So I think it's how you feel about property tax. This will be a way to go on record of whether or not you're for or against property tax. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Louden. Further discussion on the Louden amendment? Senator Schrock.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. President, members of the body, I disagree with Senator Louden. This is not a vote whether you're for or against property tax. It's a vote about responsible government. If you live in a basin where there's irrigation taking place, everybody in the community benefits because the irrigated tax base...the irrigated valuations certainly increase the tax base. And everybody benefits from irrigation in the basin you're at. The question about hiring money for a lobbyist, a substantial amount of that money was raised from private funds. Bankers, farmers, businessmen all kicked in to pay for some of that, those fees. And considering their issues they had down there, they were concerned, so you can't blame them for doing that. And I do think that's an appropriate activity. Certainly shouldn't be a substantial burden for the taxpayers, but I think