

January 24, 1974

SENATOR LEWIS: The authority to determine the critical area is vested in the Department of Water Resources which at the present time is Dan Jones, Jr.

SENATOR CARSTENS: OK, now....

SENATOR LEWIS: I might further qualify that, upon the advice and recommendations of the local NRD board or the Water Conservancy Board. We have some water conservancy districts and those people have the authority to make these recommendations also.

SENATOR CARSTENS: Then what we have is this correct now? Assuming that there is a critical area declared, then all other areas involved in this would automatically be non-critical, is that correct?

SENATOR LEWIS: True, this limitations on permits applies only to when an area has been defined as critical.

SENATOR CARSTENS: OK, and in the non-critical areas, and first of all no wells now in existence would be affected, right?

SENATOR LEWIS: True, that is the way the thing is drawn.

SENATOR CARSTENS: In the non-critical areas, drilling may go on without restriction as to numbers but by obtaining a permit, I guess.

SENATOR LEWIS: Without limitations, that is right.

SENATOR CARSTENS: No, isn't it a fact, wouldn't it be better or would you consider that the entire state be declared a critical area by the Legislature?

SENATOR LEWIS: I would prefer not to do this. The states that have had experience in this area, and I have attended the National Ground Water Conference and listened to the problems that other states have, you impose limitations upon the entire state where in many areas there is no problem you see.

SENATOR CARSTENS: Well....it is my own....this water situation we have it in our area, in the Blue Valley and this water, our water resources and our water supply is so...has been so cruelly propagandized over the years and I am convinced beyond any question any more in my mind that we are going to destroy our water resources and Senator Nore has probably made the best point that I have ever heard and lets not do anything until we are out of it. Now this is where we are in the energy situation, we didn't do anything until we were short or out of it now, this gives us then an opportunity to shout at each other and to try to lay blame someplace and to talk about what we "ought to have done" and who was responsible and who didn't do what he should have done with our energy that we are now in with our energy. Now we are going to be in the same situation in the water resources in 5 or 10 years. But, the sad part of it, I suppose that we could get tankers to ship it in from Saudi Arabia or probably from the Amazon or someplace and bring in water. There may be problems connected with that, but at any rate, I think that this is not extensive enough, I'm in favor....I don't think that this is extensive enough and maybe we could amend this and