

maybe we can't get anything done at all, I don't know. I think Senator Lewis, I don't think that we should have a it watered down or diluted or a diluted bill that will give us again a feeling of security and doing something about it when we aren't. Would you consider broadening this thing, give more power to the Legislature on the declaration of critical areas. I'm a little bit concerned about this local group, a...a..doing it, they will never do it.

SENATOR LEWIS: Senator Carstens, I think that we have a vehicle here and certainly we will listen to the wishes of any of the legislature, and this bill can be amended to serve the best interests of this Legislature. Again, I would urge that we give the necessary votes to the introduction of this bill, and we want...we will have it printed and distributed. We want everyone to go over it carefully and try and write their views and opinions in this, I would like to see it introduced and move from there.

PRESIDENT: Senator Kime.

SENATOR KIME: Mr. President a question of Senator Lewis please.

PRESIDENT: Senator Lewis, yield?

SENATOR LEWIS: Yes.

SENATOR KIME: Senator Lewis, I understand that there are certain areas in the state that are now defined, or more or less considered critical areas. Could you enlarge a little on that and tell us perhaps where these critical areas are and more or less define critical areas?

SENATOR LEWIS: Yes I could. I could point out that there are certain areas in the norther part of the state that they have water supplies the decline to that point that are being deemed critical. There is an area in Scotts Bluff County and Banner County that has declined to the extent that domestic water is difficult to get anymore. I would call this critical. There is an area out in the western part in Perkins and Chase County where it is declining alarmingly to the extent that the local people are concerned. If you ask for a definition of what is critical the rule that is used by the western states that now have some type of water management is, that when the water declines down to, it has declined to 60% of the aquaduct in fact where you have only 40% of it left, and I would think that this would satisfy even Senator Nore that this is critical that when you only have 40% of it left with the demands that we have on domestic water supplies.

PRESIDENT: We are still debating the introduction of the bill, Senator Carpenter is next to speak.

SENATOR CARPENTER: Mr. President, I come from a district which is 100% irrigated, not only pump but otherwise. We always welcome the opportunity to discuss a very important subject. Obviously no one senator is going to determine what this body does. It is a matter of compromise. I would see no harm in the introduction of the bill. With that I would like to move the previous question.

PRESIDENT: The previous question has been moved. Does the Chair see five hands? Thank you. The question is shall the debate now close? All those in favor of closing debate