

and the State of Nebraska. You saw in the paper, I believe on Monday of this week, that the federal government has filed a claim on all of the water that is generated on federal land in the State of Colorado that effects the flow of the South Platte River that flows into the Platte at North Platte, Nebraska. How farreaching this is going to be, we do not know. The feds say it won't make much difference to Nebraska. I think it will. The High Plains Study that is made up now of the six states, most of them lying south of us, lying over the Ogallala aquifer, are looking at water wherever they can find it. They are thirsty to the south of us. I am going to predict that agriculture needs will grow. One of these days prices will change. We have gone through price cycles many times and we will again and the minute that prices get a little bit better you are going to see more and more wells drilled in the State of Nebraska that is going to require more and more of the water that is available to us. Our cities are going to grow. There is a tendency today for industry to come westward but we do not have some of the problems they do in the East and they are going to require water. So we are seeing today what I think is going to be aggravated to a great extent from year to year as we go along. I must say now that I am going to try to the best of my ability to get into our appropriation bill the \$130,000 that the Appropriations Committee has not yet put it there. They are waiting on decisions that need to be made, \$100,000 to continue to study this unfortunate situation that is developing in the State of Nebraska. \$30,000 of that is needed for a hydrologist that will work in our Department of Water Resources. We are placing more and more responsibility on that Department and here is another example of what we are doing and it should be there and I believe they should be qualified to make decisions and I believe they will. All that Senator Schmit is asking in this bill is to go to this Department and ask them to review the supply of water and from where Omaha can take it. I think it is fair but we are going to have to give them the money to do it. The Public Works Committee held a special hearing in Omaha something over a year ago and we asked the same question, why can't you get water out of the Missouri River. We got the same answer. It is more costly and it probably is but I want to say here now that all of us in this Legislature has to take a pretty good look at what is developing and then try to come up with some answers. I am going to end it with this statement that Nebraska is simply going to have to build more storage right now, and as Senator Keyes has indicated, there is water flowing out of this state. We are having flooding situations in many areas. There are places in Nebraska and we can capture this water and put it in storage and then take it where it is needed and I tried to point out to you what some of the needs are. I think the proposition before us is fair. If it does come out on the floor, I doubt if we are going to have time to address it even though it is a priority bill but at least it is going to give us a point of discussion and I think it is going to point to the people of Nebraska the fact that we simply are going to have to do more than we have ever been willing to do to capture some of this surplus water when it is there and take care of these tremendous needs that are going to develop and are developing today. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Koch.