

PRESIDENT MOUL: LR 271 is adopted. LR 273.

CLERK: 273 is offered by Senators Hillman, Baack, and Wickersham. It is found on page 2805 of the Journal.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Hillman.

SENATOR HILLMAN: Yes, Madam President and members, what this is is some federal legislation that is being proposed that I'd like to give a little explanation of and the it's the Natural Resources Committee of the United States of the House of Representatives has introduced the Natural Resources Budget Reconciliation Act for the fiscal year of 1994 which in part creates a federal irrigation surcharge. The surcharge would be in addition to all other charges that are currently being paid for water service or any other repayments that are being made and as a part of the act a fund would be established called the Natural Resource Restoration Fund and money would be appropriated from this fund for just fish and wildlife resources including habitat affected by the construction and operations of projects of the Bureau of Reclamation. That says and it implies that there has been a lot of harm done to the habitat and wetlands due to projects by the Bureau of Reclamation and in Nebraska we'll tell you that surface irrigation has created wetlands and streams. It has contributed to the wildlife habitat and it has increased the population of wildlife, deer, pheasants, ducks and geese. Part of the appropriation would go for looking at ways to irrigate more efficiently and on the assumption that efficiency would create a better climate for wildlife and I would tell you that in the State of Nebraska we are at this point not sure what the effect of recharging our underground and surface water, how that is connected. Conjunctive use is something we have not talked about in depth at all and for the looking at the federal government how to use our water more efficiently, I don't think they know what that impact would be because we certainly do not know. The surcharge that is being proposed would be assessed and collected so that in the years '94, '95, '96 it would collect at least \$10 million annually and after that at least \$15 million. There is some statistics in the resolution that would tell you what that fiscal impact would be to the State of Nebraska and the irrigators throughout the State of Nebraska. Other reasons for opposing this federal legislation is that the surcharge would not be uniformly applied. There is some, I believe, in the