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FLOOR DEBATE

January 23, 2001 LB 135

that's water over the dam or water down the river or whatever. We must await the situation now. And I suppose at this point in time it...it's kind of sad to say, but the moment for gaining our best advantage has probably passed us because now the court has essentially, for all practical purposes, ruled that groundwater will be included and that was one of our biggest bargaining chips. But it's past. So the best we can do now is to give the NRDs the authority to curtail further development in the alluvial plain, awaiting the results of the court case. I hope they do it before the results of the court case,...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...but most certainly after the results of the court case this measure will be needed. I'm sorry to...to make a speech that's so pessimistic on something that's so important to us, but I just feel drained because this whole situation, despite the knowledge of knowledgeable people in the state, got away from us. It really got away from us. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. We are discussing the advancement of LB 135. Seeing no further lights, Senator Schrock, do you wish to close?

SENATOR SCHROCK: Senator Beutler, thank you for those comments. I have been in the Legislature eight out of the last ten years and I'm not going to explain to you what happened those two years, but it's something we'll deal with towards the end of the session, I think. Senator Beutler, you're one of those who sat out a spell also. The Republican River Basin is interesting. I have represented them the past six years in the Legislature, or at least the lower portion of it, and attitudes are changing. The farmers in that area are really concerned about what this lawsuit with Kansas means towards their economic future. I don't think we know the outcome of that. There are some people very knowledgeable who claim we've not been overusing water according to the compact we've signed with Kansas. I'm not quite sure what year that was, but it was at least fifty-plus years ago. And there's some who think we've been overusing the water. I don't know what the outcome of that would be. I don't think it was a surprise to most of us that groundwater was