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FLOOR DEBATE

April 12, 2001      LB 667

amendments. (Legislative Journal page 1272.)

**PRESIDENT MAURSTAD:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Schrock, would you like to take a few minutes and provide a brief explanation of this part of the divided committee amendment?

**SENATOR SCHROCK:** Mr. Lieutenant Governor, members of the Legislature, as you may recall, LB 667 is the bill that would say that wells drilled after a certain date in a water basin that is being the subject of litigation by another state, that those wells may be treated differently by the natural resource districts. And it also has the island well provision in it, which was Senator Pederson's bill. The other day when we were talking about this issue, the body adopted one-half of the committee amendments, providing for a change for a well may be drilled in conjunction with spacing from the channel of the river instead of the banks of the river. The second part of the committee amendment was being discussed by members of the Natural Resources Committee and Senator Beutler. This part of the committee amendment would change the green copy of the bill. On page 4, line 2, it strikes the language regarding the date on which the litigation is filed in federal court where Nebraska is named the defendant, and inserts a date certain, which will be January 1, 2001. This was an issue that I discussed thoroughly with the natural resource districts and the irrigation districts in the basin affected. And this is what they wanted me to support. I've also introduced LB...or, AM1416, which would allow NRDs the discretion to treat wells differently if the litigation is filed in federal court after the effective date of the act, so as not to tie future litigation to the date of January 1, 2001, in case somebody files suit against us in another basin. That is kind of where we stand at the present time. If somebody else would like a further explanation or an update, I would try to provide that.

**PRESIDENT MAURSTAD:** Thank you, Senator Schrock. For debate on FA146, Senator Beutler.

**SENATOR BEUTLER:** Mr. Lieutenant Governor, and members of the Legislature, the second part of this amendment, as you may recall, allows the NRD to treat water wells differently if they