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March 3, 2004      LB 962, 1172, 1173

SENATOR CUDABACK:    Senator Schrock, would you like to have his time?

SENATOR SCHROCK:    Senator Beutler, I'm a little puzzled about Mr. Huggenberger. As I recall, he attended most of the meetings. And I'm not aware...and keep in mind, I missed several meetings because they were held while we were in session and couldn't attend. I was not aware of his concerns. I don't remember him bringing these concerns up. But I will tell you that the amendments, LB 1172 and LB 1173, should alleviate municipalities' concerns. And I don't think anybody on the task force, their intention was to deny water to municipalities for agricultural use, considering the volume of water that it takes, that agriculture uses. So I didn't hear anybody say that municipalities should be relegated to a second-rate citizen when it comes to water use. As a matter of fact, to me, it's a high priority. There are some farmers that will haggle over whether you should be able to water your yard or wash your car or irrigate your golf course. But even that to me seems kind of petty, in light of the volume of water that agriculture uses. But of course, as you go further west, this issue gets more sensitive. But I think LB 1172 and LB 1173 should alleviate some of those concerns. And if a municipality needs more water and it's in an area that's being regulated, I don't see anything wrong with having them buy that water, because it's...so it can be transferred from one use to a next. And I don't see anything wrong with the 30-year lease, so...or a permanent transfer. But it does have value. And if you are...if you're doing a taking, then I think there's a cost involved. With that, if you have...I have any extra time, I could probably yield it to you, Senator Beutler, if you want it.

SENATOR CUDABACK:    If Senator Wehrbein allows. Senator Wehrbein, it's your time. You allow Senator Beutler to have it? Senator Janssen, your light is next, if you wish to speak.

SENATOR JANSSEN:    I give my time to Senator Schrock.

SENATOR CUDABACK:    Senator Schrock, would you like to have his time? We're passing time around here. I guess nobody wants