

March 19, 1979

LB 26

but the NRDs are there in case we do have a groundwater level drop that they will be able to take over when this was the case. I urge you to support Senator Kremer's amendment.

SENATOR LEWIS: Before we go to the next speaker, from Senator Lamb, in honor of Agriculture Day, the Cowbells are serving Nebraska beef, I'm sure you meant to put in there, Senator Lamb, in the rotunda. If it's as good as last year's, I'd recommend it, and they invite you to join them. Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, to those who would contend that LB 26 now does nothing, as some have alleged in the back of the rotunda, I would submit to you that LB 26 does the most critical thing of all, it makes sure there's something. In other words, as I suggested earlier, our whole groundwater management structure and system of laws is dependent upon it to be constitutional and workable, and LB 26 does do this. It makes them constitutional, which they probably are not now, and workable which they probably are not. So we are putting a foundation...we are putting a foundation in next year, or even later this year, and in succeeding years will add the blocks and the rest of the structure, whether that includes metering, whether that includes some additional financing, whether it's state or local, whatever, but you have to have 26. I commend Senator Kremer for taking this approach of getting the foundation built before we build the upstairs story.

SENATOR LEWIS: Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. Chairman, a question of Senator Kremer if he would yield.

SENATOR LEWIS: Senator Kremer, would you yield to a question?

SENATOR KREMER: Yes, sir.

SENATOR KOCH: Senator Kremer, if I understand you correctly you're doing two things, and one is you're going to strike the quarter of a mill levy that would have been allowed in case there was a critical water area? Right?

SENATOR KREMER: It strikes the increase from a quarter of a mill to three-quarters of a mill levy as we amended it the other day. The original bill called for an increase from a quarter to one mill. We put it back to three-quarters.