

time that it would take years to replace that water supply, but after two years of rainfall in my area, at least, the aquifer was recharged. So, I'm not going to oppose LB 26 any further at this point in time, but I would ask you to read the bill, and to know what is in it, because the bill, as Senator DeCamp pointed out, establishes some very important criteria, and we need the bill, but understand also that you are giving some broad general authority to the Natural Resource Districts. You're not cutting their water off a bit. You're giving them a tremendous responsibility, and that responsibility properly handled can do a good job...improperly handled it can curtail, it can handicap, it can absolutely stop the development of one of our best and most important resources. I would suggest to you that the economic benefits that have occurred to Nebraska and that have accrued to this state over the years have done so as a result of proper utilization of our resources.

SENATOR LEWIS: One minute, Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: We have not abused those resources, notwithstanding the fact that in some individual instances, there may have been some problems, but if you were to follow the dictates of certain individuals, we would do nothing to waters below the soil, the soil is available for use, and I would suggest there is another indication in here that I do not exactly like, that refers to soil class. I believe it is a direct attempt to limit the ability of individual farmers to develop a certain class of soils as opposed to another class of soils, and I think that we may be giving the Natural Resource Districts just a little bit more authority there than many of us are aware. So, as I told you two or three weeks ago, read the bill, and don't come around after a while and say that you didn't understand what was in the bill, or that someone took the responsibility that was not there, because there is substantial responsibility and authority included in LB 26. Properly used, it will be alright. Improperly used, it will come back to haunt us.

SENATOR LEWIS: Senator Kremer, do you wish to close and reply?

SENATOR KREMER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, sir, I do. I support the amendments to the bill that I have offered, and I did give you the reasons why. I would like to comment on Senator Schmit's remarks to some extent. He pointed out that reasonable foreseeable future is rather an uncertain thing, and perhaps it is. We use the same kind of