

May 8, 1979

LB 595

in the hands of a few that had this control for the last ten years. What have they done with it? We're worse off than we ever were. I just talked to the Public Health Department the other day. They said that there's irrigators dumping nitrates and insecticides right in the wells and pumping it down on the ground. Why hasn't something been done? These people have the authority. I wonder where we're headed for, and when we give this back to people without any responsibility, also the Public Health told me that we're going to run out of quality water far before we are quantity, so what are we doing about it? These ten agencies are here. Why don't we put something in here that tells them to get the job done? I think it's time we do some pushing on these agencies. So I can't help but feel that we're headed in the wrong direction. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Cope.

SENATOR COPE: Mr. President and members, I wholeheartedly support Senator Kremer. I'm on the Appropriations Committee. I was one of the ones that didn't vote for this bill as written, and generally speaking because of the makeup of the Advisory Committee. Now, let's look at this way, you hear over and over or several times anyway that the Legislature has no input. They will have input because the Public Works Committee worked with the Natural Resources Commission at all times. Look at it this way too, legislators, the Public Works Committee is our...the members of this Committee are our professionals in water conservation. They are the people that we choose as a Legislature, as the ones that represent us in water. I'm, if for no other reason in the world, that is why I am supporting Senator Kremer's amendment. They've studied this. They know this. Secondly, the Natural Resources Commission are responsible for what happens in water throughout the state. What we're doing is hampering them at every turn, and this is an absolute example. Then, they are the ones that are blamed. I say let's make the Water Resources Commission stronger and get something done. If Senator Merz is here, I would say right there is the reason that if it is true what he says that we're behind, that we're not doing as well as we did ten years ago, that's the reason...I don't believe that, but I'm sure that we could have improved it a great deal if we would settle down and work through the authorities that we now have in the state of Nebraska. I ask you as a member of the Appropriations Committee to support...support Senator Kremer.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Schmit.