

May 8, 1979

LB 595

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Mr. President and colleagues, I'd like to rise in opposition to Senator Kremer's proposal. Echoing for a moment what Senator Lewis was talking about, if you check Page 8 of LB 595 there is a list of criteria there that will be excluded, that will be completely excluded if we conduct the study the way Senator Kremer suggests we conduct it. Now if you take a close look at those criteria you will see how important they are to the urban areas of our state. Now I can sympathize with the needs and the desires of the rural legislators to collect the kind of data through this study that needs to be collected for the rural areas, but I think that we in the urban areas are also entitled to have certain kinds of data collected that we think are important for the kind of decisions that we're going to have to make that will benefit the urban areas, or will jeopardize interests in the urban areas. Now specifically, I'm thinking of coming in with a water bill myself next year, and I know a lot of us in the urban areas are going to be interested in this in the future, and in order to make intelligent decisions about water bills as they affect urban areas there are certain kinds of data we simply have to have, and Senator Kremer's proposal excludes completely the collection of those kinds of data. Now again referring to Page 8, the top paragraph talks about data relating to instream flow issues, and it specifically mentions collecting data in relation to instream flow issues as they relate to municipal uses and subirrigation as they relate to municipal uses. Now we really need to know, for instance, how changing the water levels of the Platte or the Elkhorn are going to affect the water supply to Omaha and the water supply to Lincoln, and we're entitled to have that kind of data collected. Now dropping down to the bottom half of Page 8 of LB 595 it indicates the study on water quality should include certain items relating directly to water quality. Alright, the extent to which use of nitrogens have affected water quality in the state, and it's very important for us in making judgments as to how the drinking water supplies in Omaha and Lincoln are going to be affected to have the data that's going to result from these water quality studies. So I think that Senator Lewis is essentially correct that Senator Kremer's proposal badly prejudices the urban areas by taking out a certain kind of data we really need to have and we really need to know. I mean, really what we're talking about here is collecting data, and I can't imagine anybody as really against collecting certain categories of data that some of us think we have to have in order to make intelligent judgments. So I would urge the opposition of Senator Kremer's proposal and urge the adoption of Senator Dworak's language. Thank you, Mr. President.