

April 2, 1980

LB 643

but we need to have the overriding hand of the state there because of the fact that if we do not have that, local political pressures are so great that nothing will be done and the question I want to pose for the body is this, are we in favor of local control only when local control takes away the property rights of the individual. I think that is a philosophy that is usually expressed on this body. We want local control when the local traffic officer will give us a ticket for an infraction of the law but we don't want local control if he won't give it because there isn't a clear violation of the law. I think that we have seen the Natural Resource Districts make some progress in recent years but there are those people who would say that that progress is not rapid enough. Now I have passed out I think for your...I will pass out articles which I think express in large part my feeling about the water issue and I think it is important because I know and you know that an inordinate amount of space has been developed and utilized to explain the serious water problem. I think that you would have to say, and I will read this, it says here, a United Press International article says, "Water shortage, a reality to Nebraskans, began with the finding of the University of Nebraska's Bureau of Sociological Research, that more than two-thirds of Nebraskans believe a water shortage already exists in the state or soon will. For so many to have reached that conclusion probably is attributable to the accumulative affect of media accounts. It hardly was due to personal experience for most residents of this state have yet to suffer from the lack of water." This gentleman is Mr. Ray Bentall, Research Hydrologist, Conservation and Survey Division. Now either he knows what he is talking about or we ought to fire him and I am sure that thought has probably crossed some minds because he does not agree with the philosophy of some people who want to regulate and control every drop of water within the State of Nebraska. The final paragraph, "Compared to the citizens of most states, Nebraskans have water supply problems that are small indeed." I think it is a disservice to the people of this state, ladies and gentlemen, that certain elements of the media have attempted to point out that the water problem is so severe and so serious that within a matter of days or weeks or months or certainly years...

SPEAKER MARVEL: You have thirty seconds.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...we will not have water to drink. I would suggest that their time could be better spent, ladies and gentlemen, pointing out the serious economic problems that face this state and which we are going to face much more