

the Upper Blue Natural Resource District. These are the districts of York, Seward, Clay, Fillmore and Hamilton Counties. It is important to point out the Upper Blue NRD has endorsed LB 81 with full consent. The Blue River Board of Association has ten members, two selected from each county of the Blue River Association. These members receive no salary other than the expense compensation which amounts to about a hundred dollars a year. Funding of the Blue River Association is by a rate determined by the districts of so many dollars paid for the number of irrigation wells in that individual district. The budget for the 79-80 year was \$70,400 or 7,464 wells of \$7.50 a piece. They actually used only \$59,925. Their full administrative staff is \$30,000. I feel they are very conservative and have done a tremendous amount of work because they actually have delayed the implementation of controls which is very important. This past year we had a tremendous drouth and used a terrific amount of water and yet we only had a drop of about eighty-seven hundredths of a foot. This tells me that we have people that are conscientious of how to use their water and we need to continue to do this. I don't feel any type of regulation that we put upon these people, it is going to take that much water to produce a crop, so whatever they can do to conserve this water in their tillage methods, in their conserving of the water, in the proper use of the water, in the scheduling program that they have used, these are all tools that these individuals can use. So I highly support this bill and I move for the adoption of the bill.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Cullan.

SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, Senator Sieck, I appreciate very much your comments about the operation of the districts in question, but I would have some questions of Senator Sieck and Senator Kremer concerning the background of these districts. Senator Kremer, of course, led the fight several years ago to establish the Natural Resource Districts, and at that time it was my understanding from reviewing the establishment of the Natural Resource Districts that it was the intent to eliminate other political subdivisions throughout the State of Nebraska that carried on the same function and my first year on the Public Works Committee I believe we established the life or reestablished these districts and allowed them to continue in existence beyond what was originally the case and now I see that they are back again asking for another five years of operation. And I guess I have some philosophical problems with allowing two competing political subdivisions, two political subdivisions with the same functions to continue to operate and I wonder why