

February 6, 1981

LB 24

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator DeCamp, we are speaking to the Haberman amendments to the bill.

SENATOR DeCAMP: ...or the committee amendment. What the blazes is that? Everybody is talking about everything else.

CLERK: Senator Haberman's amendment changes it from a Class V to a Class IV.

SENATOR DeCAMP: And you leave the rest of it intact? Well I don't care about that. That don't bother me. Mr. President, yes, I would like to talk to it. Now I think we, so to speak, no pun intended, all better get our feet wet on this water issue because this is going to be your first major test on water issues. That amendment, the committee amendment which Rex is amending with his change in penalty, fine, adopt Rex's or don't adopt. It doesn't matter because if the rest of it is adopted it is going to function and that is the committee amendment and I am the one that offered it in committee and I am the last person in the world that should be offering it and I will tell you why I offered it. I offered that same thing ten years ago and nearly got lynched up in my territory where we have all center pivots and when the matter came up in committee I brought it up again and explained that if we were serious about this problem this was the way to address it. So let me go and, number one, tell you what the problem is. Number two, show you why this solution will work and, number three, point out why I hope to kill everything even though this is what we should do. Number one, the problem. Sam's area is not quite the same as center pivot country. Center pivot country is Holt County, Antelope County, that area. You have some other areas but that is true center pivot country and when I say center pivot country I mean mile after mile, road after road, both sides, center pivot, every step of the way. Thousands of them, not ten or five or fifty or five hundred, about six thousand of them along the county roads primarily and it is the most wonderful thing that every happened to that part of the country but any time you start doing anything sometimes you have some incidental problems. One of the problems is when that old pivot comes whipping around and gets to where it is right next to the road she soaks that road up to where you can't drive on the road very good, to where school buses have ridden and gone off the road, to where it really washes out the road in many cases and I suppose wastes some water and so my argument has always been, during the ten years I have worked on stopping anything to be done because my center pivot boys get me in a room and they are all about six-four it seems when I look at them in groups and they explain, by golly, do they want us here or not, you know.