

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Wagner.

SENATOR WAGNER: Mr. Speaker and members, I, too, support LR 26 and I would like to back that water up just a little bit more on the North Platte River that Senator Vickers was alluding to because it is a very interesting story that takes place in the State of Wyoming. Wyoming has got a series of big dams setting out there. They have got Seminoe which is the one clear high. They have got Pathfinder, they got Alcoa, they got Glendo and they got Guernsey. These units up there provide for recreation and wildlife. They also provide hydro power. They provide for irrigation. They stabilize the community, the whole State of Wyoming as well as the State of Nebraska and that river up there is pretty well controlled but the very unique thing is just the opposite on the South Platte and I think that is the thing that LR 26 does is it emphasizes the need to put some of that water in storage in here. This spring we saw a lot of water come down that river and it was not stored and it could have been stored and LR 26 is a step in the right direction and I certainly do support it.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Kahle and then Senator Schmit.

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. Speaker and members, I certainly support the resolution. I felt a little inadequate this morning with the Secretary of State's bill here and couldn't answer all your questions and I apologize for that but when it comes to water in the Platte River I can talk with some authority, having lived on the bank of that river all my life and my grandfather and my father ahead of me for a hundred years now. We pretty well know the habits of the Platte River. We know the habits of it now. We know the habits of what it was before Lake McConaughy was put in. The problem we have on the Platte River and the reason we are losing water in vast amounts is because of the South Platte flow. There is no way Nebraska can capture any appreciable amount of water out of the South Platte. The Tri-County system could fill its canals out of the South Platte water as it comes down but if it is at flood stage they do not do that because it fills their canals with sand. The Platte River churns up a great amount of sand when it is at flood stage and moves a lot of it. So it is almost, for all practical purposes, unuseable in the State of Nebraska. If we would capture that water in Colorado, and I say we because I think if we are going to face up to the water situations in our country we are going to have to forget about state lines and probably county lines and probably even about watersheds. But that would certainly help us. We just finished or are