

all reference to surface water provisions. We have had a long standing problem in our water law that we treat differently and handle in accordance with different rules and different... completely different framework, surface water and groundwater and there was an attempt made in the original 146 to start to put surface water and groundwater together. Because certain members of the committee objected to that procedure we deleted from the bill all provisions with regards to surface water so that the bill deals only with groundwater. The third part of the committee amendments were to adopt portions of LB 147 which also dealt with the groundwater management act, specifically, and these are not major items, but specifically it provided for example that the spacing protections written into the law already would apply only to registered wells in an effort to encourage people to register their wells. It gave NRD's more flexibility with regard to the types of regulations that they could enact. That is they can enact regulations that are appropriate for the type of uses being made of the water and do not have to adopt one overall set of rules and regulations applying to all uses. Lastly they increase the penalties for violation of NRD's cease and desist orders. So that is the sum and substance of the committee amendments and I think that probably if philosophic questions and the general concept is what you have questions about then that would be best addressed in the debate on the bill as a whole. The committee amendments again make the bill less severe. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Lamb, do you wish to speak to the committee amendment?

SENATOR LAMB: Yes. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, if you will look at the committee statement in the bill book you will see that I was present but not voting when the bill was advanced. At this point I would like to explain my action in that regard. I did not vote to advance the bill, not because I don't support it because I do support the bill and the committee amendments. I think that pollution of groundwater is something that we all need to be concerned about. The reason I did not vote to advance the bill was because I had gotten what I thought was an agreement among the committee members that LB 146 and LB 375 would be advanced at the same time. My reason for asking about that was because I saw these matters as being related, 375 and 146. I thought that it would be a disservice to advance one without the other. So at one point the committee agreed with that thinking and said we won't advance one bill without the other. Well as time passed and upon assurances from Senator Hoagland and others that LB 375 would not be delayed, unduly, the committee decided to advance 146 and leave 375 in committee thinking that 375 would be following immediately thereafter. I was not sure that that commitment