

measures. Now, what LB 146 does is it takes these important legislative accomplishments over the last twelve years just one small step further. It permits the NRD's to set up control areas for reasons of groundwater pollution as well as water table decline which is the limit of their current authority. Now in addition to permitting groundwater quality control areas it makes it somewhat easier for the NRD's to set up control areas for both reasons, groundwater quality problems and groundwater decline problems. Now, I passed out about fifteen minutes ago a summary of the state water planning and review process schedule. You will recall that in 1978 we directed the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission to make a series of studies in our water problems. The study on groundwater pollution was the first major report to be completed in the last six months of last year. One principal recommendation of that study was this mechanism that we are incorporating in 146 to set up groundwater quality control areas. Now I think that it is very important that we follow up on these studies when they are completed and presented to us by the Natural Resources Commission. It is an on-going process. We have completed two reports now and we have about 15 to go. The schedule shows the substance of each report and when each report is due stretching from May of this year until July of '84 and a couple of studies are even scheduled beyond but we don't have a date for completion yet. Now, in order to keep faith with the public and to keep faith with our decision to undertake these studies I think that it is important that we not let the studies languish and that we take action on the recommendations one way or another. Now, not only is 146 a product and one of the principal recommendations of the study on groundwater quality control, it is also the product of a long study and hearings by the Public Works Committee. For several years the Public Works Committee has been receiving testimony about and has been studying problems related to the pollution of groundwater principally from nitrate fertilizers and since last summer the committee has studied the recommendations of this water quality report, conducted several hearings around the state, had before it several versions of LB 146, sorted through a lot of ideas and a lot of recommendations and come to the Legislature with this final product. As Senator Lamb has indicated, it was reported out of the committee virtually unanimously. So, I think that it is really clear that this is a good bill. I strongly recommend that all of us support it and would just like to close with this reminder.

SPEAKER MARVEL: You have one minute.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: And, I know that nobody argues with the fact that water is really the single most important issue and the single most important problem that we are going to face. Thirty years from now when two-thirds of us in this Legislature are in our graves, and when one-third of us have