

been long, long out of this body and off to other pursuits why this session is going to be judged, not on the Omaha sales tax and not on the distribution of the seventy million dollars and not on whether the speed limit on the interstate should be 55 or 60 or 65 MPH, and not on whether we should have one or two license plates on every automobile, but this session is going to be judged on whether we have taken thoughtful and effective steps towards managing our water problems. Now I hope you wash of you to act carefully and with foresight and to support this particular bill because as others, including Senator Lamb have indicated, it is not going to solve all of our water problems but it is another important step in this progression of legislation that goes back to 1969. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SENATOR NICHOL PRESIDING

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Schmit, did you wish to speak on this?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I guess I am a little bit concerned. Senator Hoagland says that this is probably the single most important piece of legislation dealing with water that we are going to discuss on this floor. Senator Lamb made reference to the fact that LB 375 still languishes in committee. I would suggest to Senator Hoagland and Senator Beutler may well be remembered as the time the committee sat on a bill of some importance and could not agree on it because it did do substantive things with water. The facts are that the body has historically, and I will agree with what has been said sometimes in the past here, never wanted to meet an issue head on. Now we are going to talk about pollution of the underground water, in this instance, and we are going to make a lot of noise, we are going to say that we are going to do an awful lot of things, but I'm going to ask you to take a look at the bill and point out to me what kind of controls you are imposing that is going to reduce pollution one iota. First of all you haven't identified any sources. There is no source of pollution of underground water that has been identified. You are talking about well spacing, allocation, rotation, etc., some of you don't even know what it means. I want to point out once again that the issue of pollution of the water is going to have to be determined from some source caused by humans, as was outlined in the bill. That means that perhaps the lagoon in Belwood which has been dug into the ground water is a source of pollution. Now we have already burned down the oil station down there, blown up the elevator and I suppose with the passage of this bill we will have to drain the lagoon. I think that we want to take a good look at what we are doing. I have no objection, in fact I have been a strong supporter of bills which will do something substantive. But, this bill, I'm not going to say that I am not