

May 6, 1981

LB 375

the Public Works Committee it is not because we do not want water legislation, but it is because we want to be sure that water legislation that we pass takes us forward even if it is a half a step forward like LB 146 and not two steps backwards. In summary, what I am trying to say to you is that when a water bill doesn't get out of Public Works, you can be sure that it is seriously flawed or that a considerable body on that committee who have worked with the complex issue believe it to be seriously flawed. I might point out before I go any further that the Public Works Committee has passed a resolution to study that bill this summer and this fall. That bill will stay as a priority bill and if the study has a reasonable...a favorable conclusion to LB 375, it will be up early next year and it will be passed and there will be no delay. But the central question, the central question on this bill is whether this radical new concept, this management area concept, promotes or hinders the reasonable management of groundwater.

PRESIDENT: One minute, Senator.

SENATOR BEUTLER: I am expressing the opinion, I think, of three or four members of the Public Works Committee, and, of course, my own opinion. But if you think I am too young, if you think I am too inexperienced, if you think I am too suspiciously urban on this issue, then I ask you to ask yourself, what group of people is experienced in the area, has expertise in the area and is primarily, predominantly rural in orientation who would have an opinion on this issue. I suggest to you that those hundreds and hundreds of locally elected farmers who sit on the local NRD boards, who have been grappling with the water problem for a dozen years now, I suggest to you that you ask what they think, and the answer is that these experienced people dealing with the problem....

PRESIDENT: Time is up.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...are against LB 375.

PRESIDENT: Time is up.

SENATOR BEUTLER: They do not think that the bill would work. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, as a Public Works Committee member I, of course,