

May 6, 1981

LB 375

is trying to deal with. Also, I think it needs to be pointed out that this is a major piece of legislation, a radical idea, a new idea. Several people have mentioned it was worked on over the interim by a number of people, by large groups. Well, I happened to be a member of the Public Works Committee over the last interim and this was never discussed by the Public Works Committee. If it was discussed by a large group it was not discussed by that committee. It was not discussed by the committee of the Legislature that has to deal with it. Also, I would like to point out that the four...half of the members of that committee, this is the first year they were on that committee and water legislation is a tough, complicated, complex issue. Now I think another thing needs to be pointed out. There are a lot of groups, several people that have been involved with the drafting of this bill, be it good, bad or indifferent, and a lot of those people feel strong that it's doing something. I think it needs to be pointed out that the Natural Resources Districts of this state are not in love with this piece of legislation. Who controls the Natural Resource Districts of this state? Senator Kremer and people that were in the Legislature back in the time when the Water Management Act was enacted were very knowledgeable, very farsighted, they had the Natural Resources Districts controlled by elected members of boards of directors, in most cases they were farmers, irrigators, if you will, out there in western and rural Nebraska. Now, I know a lot of those people in my area and I have talked to them, and they are not enamored with LB 375. They think there is a lot of problems with it. The Natural Resources Districts that have to implement it think there is a lot of problems with it. Now, I don't think it is too much to ask the committee to go ahead and study the situation over another interim. This is a new committee. This issue hadn't been studied last year, certainly we have studied water issues over the past, but we have not studied a management control area concept, and I don't care how many people out in back of those glass doors tell you you have....

PRESIDENT: One minute, Senator.

SENATOR VICKERS: ...the committee has not. So I think the bottom line is this. If this body wants to have 500 bills out here on General File to deal with, then let's do away with the committees. Let's just bring them out here and let everybody deal with everything. But if you want the committee structures to be stronger and each of us are on committees, if you want those committees to be strengthened so that we can deal with the issue in a