

May 6, 1981

LB 375

committee, do away with those issues that we don't want to deal with or study those issues that we think are complex and come out with something the committee can agree with, then I think you should oppose this motion and strengthen the committee structure and not weaken it.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Hoagland.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Mr. President and colleagues, I rise also to oppose this motion to raise LB 375 from committee. Now let me try and state the issues as simply as I can as I see them in terms of LB 375 and 146 which we will be discussing later today and most other issues in the water area. I think the ultimate goal that most of us have is to get more authority to the Natural Resource Districts to do their job, to get more authority to the Natural Resource Districts to conserve our soil and to conserve our water for future generations, the same issues that we talked about yesterday when Senator Burrows' bill was being debated by us. Now that's simply what we are trying to do on the Public Works Committee is to get legislation through that is going to get more authority to the Natural Resource Districts, and I really don't think that you can seriously think that people like Beutler and Wesely and Koch and Vickers and Hoagland believe anything differently, because I think our track record demonstrates that. For three years now that has been our single aim. Now the problem with the green copy of LB 375 is that simply it does not do that. As Senator Beutler has indicated, if the green copy of LB 375 were to pass it would be a serious setback, because it would take away from the Natural Resource Districts a lot of the current authorities they have right now and it would tie up the Natural Resource Districts in red tape for years, for years before they could even exercise their current authority which is to initiate the designation of a control area. Now, let me talk about three provisions of the green copy as succinctly as I can that represent among other provisions what I talk about when I say this would be a serious setback for the authorities of current NRDs, the NRDs currently have. And, believe me, if the green copy of LB 375 comes out of committee, brace yourselves because it is going to take a lot of work on the floor to make it a progressive piece of water legislation. It simply is not that right now. Now let me talk about those three elements. First, take a look at section three of the green copy. Now section three of the green copy indicates that in order to initiate the designation of a control area which the NRDs are free