

May 6, 1981

LB 146

the vote.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the motion to cease debate.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Vickers, do you wish to close?

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. Chairman and members, well, once again it would appear that not all of my rural friends agree with me but I would like to point out that this is not a case of an individual as it might have been indicated that doesn't have anything to gain, nothing to lose, no interest in this matter at all, bringing this before this body. I would point out to you that I do own a place, or me and the Federal Land Bank together does, in southwestern Nebraska that depends on a little bit of that water we are talking about. I think I do have an interest in it. I don't live in Omaha. I don't live in Lincoln even though I might be here during the session and my livelihood does come from that area. There is no...and I would also point out to you that I live about as far as you can get in this State of Nebraska from a river. Everybody in my immediate area depends upon underground development for irrigation.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Vickers, I think you are going to have to take your hands off of the mike. You are distorting your voice.

SENATOR VICKERS: Well, that might not be all bad either, Senator Clark.

SENATOR CLARK: You said that, I didn't.

SENATOR VICKERS: The fact of the matter is the people in my area or the people in rural Nebraska did not send me letters after I offered this amendment on General File telling me how wrong I was. Now if anybody buys that that if we put this on this bill it is going to upset all of rural Nebraska, then I think you are mistaken. You weren't with us in Hastings, you weren't with us in Ogallala, you weren't with us in Bassett, us being the Public Works Committee last year listening to the concerns of the people that are out there, and I don't mean the concerns of these people behind these glass doors, I mean the people that are out there with dirt under their fingernails, mud on their boots, the people that really have to live with it, and what I am doing is putting something or what I am attempting to do is putting something in the statutes to give them the authority if they so choose to use it. I think it is wrong for us to stand in this body and tell people in rural Nebraska, "No, you can't address