

May 6, 1981

LB 146

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is the adoption of the Beutler amendment to LB 146. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. Have you all voted? Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: How many are excused, Mr. Speaker?

SPEAKER MARVEL: Three excused.

SENATOR BEUTLER: A record vote, please.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Go ahead, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: (Record vote read. See page 1794, Legislative Journal.) 17 ayes, 21 nays, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Ready for the next amendment.

CLERK: Mr. President, the next amendment, and as I understand it, the last amendment, is offered by Senator Hoagland. Would you like me to read the amendment, Senator? Okay.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Mr. speaker and colleagues, this is the only amendment that I have had the opportunity to offer to this bill and I ask your indulgence and your patience, and my understanding is this is the last amendment we are going to have on this bill and then we can vote it up or down on Select File. Now this has been distributed to you about an hour ago and it has my initials on it and it states the purpose of this particular amendment, and I think if you look at that one sentence statement of the purpose and scan the amendment, it is fairly clear what it does. Let me be very brief. As I have indicated previously in speeches about the water issue, it seems to me the most important thing we need to do is to get more discretion down to the local Natural Resource Districts to be able to do what they think is right in terms of conserving our water for future generations. Now this bill, this amendment does a very simple thing. It shifts the presumption in favor of designating a ground water control area and it means essentially that if the Board of Directors in a particular area decide to request a control area and designate a certain area for a control area and make that request of the Director of the Department of Water Resources, why then the decision of that Natural Resource District shall be upheld unless there is strong reason not to grant the control area. Now I think it makes a great deal of sense. A number of the NRDs are in favor of this. This is really a local control amendment. It merely attempts to effectuate what we started out with