

May 8, 1981

LB 252

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President and members, I rise to also oppose the Vickers amendment, and as Senator Wagner and others have said, it is a major rewrite of the bill, and if you will look at the amendment you will see that. If you will look at it in the Journal, you will see that it is a major rewrite of the bill. It is the sort of thing that should be introduced separately if this concept is to be approved by the Legislature. I urge the amendment be defeated.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Kremer.

SENATOR KREMER: Mr. Chairman and members, I stand here today to support the Vickers amendment to LB 252. First of all, I would like to compliment Senator Beutler. He may be assuming that I am against the Legislature taking an active role in providing guidelines whereby the Director of Water Resources would make a decision if or when or how much water may be diverted, if that time ever comes. However, I said this in the committee and I did not vote to bring this bill out of committee because I felt it was premature. I think Senator Beutler said yesterday this whole issue does need, and I think he used the word, "intensive study". I agree with that. We have not had that. We did not spend a lot of time on this bill in the committee. Again I do not deny that the Legislature should take an active role. I think it has been said that the amendment that is brought before us by Senator Vickers is a rewrite. The bill needs a rewriting. Senator Vickers is trying to bring about a balance as far as public interest is concerned between the basin of origin and the basin of request. It is my opinion that he is doing that. We all have our opinions, of course, depending on which side of the Platte River we live on. The Nebraska Water Resources Association has put together a pretty fine film. You ought to see it. Unless we in Nebraska are willing to work together and take this tremendous resource that we have in its great abundance, and I say that without hesitation, and use it wisely to help all people, we are not going to make the best use of it and we are all going to suffer for it. I firmly believe that the Vickers set of amendments do bring about a balance. That is all we are asking for and, Senator Beutler, again I compliment you for bringing this issue up. It may be premature but it is here. Now let's all cooperate and do that what is right and what is fair and which is honorable. That is all we are asking here. Thank you.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Vickers.