

May 8, 1981

LB 252

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President and members, I rise to take exception with some of the comments that have been made by Senator Beutler, Senator Lamb and Senator Wagner. First of all, this is not a major rewrite of this bill in any way, shape or form. It was indicated by one of the speakers that I took out some definitions. If you will study the amendment that I am offering and study the existing bill, you will find out we did not take out one definition. I defy anybody in this body to point out one definition that has been taken out of there. The only thing we did was take out the words "transbasin or basin of origin". We didn't change any definitions. We did, however, add some definitions. Now we do that sort of thing on this floor all the time and nobody stands up and says this is a major rewrite of the bill. Senator Lamb and Senator Wagner last...when this bill was on General File attempted to put a major rewrite in, if you want to term it that, but nobody stood up and said that this is a major rewrite and it should go back to a public hearing or introduce a separate bill. I think that is ridiculous. I think somebody is crying "wolf" but, of course, I can understand it. Those that have want to keep. They do not want to share. They do not want to look at the state as an entire state. They want to look at districts. I think our title is State Senator. I don't think our title is District Senator. We are supposed to look at what is good for the entire State of Nebraska. I passed out a map on your desks. You will notice there is some red areas and there is some blue areas. Now, obviously, if you don't live in a red area you don't give a damn about those red areas. I don't think that is the way we should operate in this body. I think we should be concerned whether or not we live there. If we operated that way then I wouldn't be of the least bit concerned about some of the urban problems of this state. I wouldn't be the least bit concerned about some problems in the eastern part of this state because I don't live there. Somebody mentioned that we take a lot of time on bills. We discussed a resolution this morning that has no more effect than a letter for hours, for an hour at least or more, and now there are going to be people upset because we are taking some time on an issue that I think has the most far-reaching impact in the State of Nebraska of any legislation we are going to pass this year but there are members of this body that don't even want to take time to study the issue. I have had people tell me I don't understand the water problems. In essence what they are telling me is I really don't want to find out either. They say this is a new concept. Senator Beutler said this is a new concept in appropriations, setting down the benefits, public benefit. The new concept is in the bill. The Constitution says that no appropriation shall be denied except when

4787