

May 8, 1981

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such denial is demanded by the public interest. That would indicate to me and the courts took it to mean that that meant all appropriations, all appropriations, but the bill says, no, that is not true. We are going to set up guidelines, we are going to put down in the statutes what the definition of public interest is only, only for those appropriations that are of transbasin nature. Senator Beutler says that that's...and what I am trying to do is say, no, no, we are going to put down in the statutes all right what the criteria of public interest is but we are going to make it apply to all, all appropriations over a certain size, all appropriations, no matter whether they are in basin or out of basin, and yet Senator Beutler says that is a new concept. Well, the new concept, if it is a new concept, is putting in the difference of size, the small appropriation will not have to follow the same criteria that a larger appropriation would. The new concept, I'll remind you, is in the bill not in the amendment.

SENATOR CLARK: You have one minute left.

SENATOR VICKERS: Thank you, Mr. President. We have spent thousands of dollars in this state on studies of ground water recharge, on ways of trying to figure out how to address the water problems of this state. The public, it has been said, it was said just the other day that the public is demanding us to do something about water. Yet when we discuss an issue that would really...is really at the root of our water problems in this State of Nebraska, many people become very self-protective and say we are not even willing to make it so it is possible to happen. One final point, Senator Beutler says that I am moving toward the basin of transfer. I will deal with that in my closing. I will simply point out that the bill right now has seven criteria, four of them slanted slightly toward the basin of transfer, five of them obviously slanted toward the basin of origin.

SENATOR CLARK: Your time is up, Senator Vickers.

SENATOR VICKERS: I am attempting to make them equal. I don't think that is going one way or the other. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CLARK: Howard Peterson.

SENATOR H. PETERSON: Mr. Chairman, I would call the question.

SENATOR CLARK: The question has been called for. Do I see five hands? I do. All those in favor of ceasing debate vote aye, opposed no.

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