

once having taken possession of the land under the present law would give a public entity a preferential right or preferential treatment when it came up for sale. I think the Beutler amendment places the public and the private individual upon the same basis regardless whether that individual was the previous landowner or not. I think perhaps that is the best we can do at this time. I would support the Beutler amendment. I would like to add, also, I do not think it was the intent of the Legislature that Natural Resource Districts should ever get into the real estate business on a major basis. I think that has been made clear plenty of times. I want to reiterate that. I think that the purchase of real estate by the Natural Resource Districts should be as a last resort and a last resort only. If there are those who disagree with me, I would hope they would say so at this time. I would support the Beutler amendment, ask that it be adopted and perhaps suggest that the Public Works Committee and others who are interested take a look at the possibility of changing the statute in order to give the right of first buyback to the original landowner. It is going to a touchy situation I am sure but one at which we could look at.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Beutler, do you wish to close on your motion to return the bill?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Just one brief comment, Mr. Speaker, I might mention that the Natural Resources Commission, the overseer of these projects, generally, of water projects, of water, generally, in the state, I asked their Legislative Committee to take a look at my proposal and they recommended to the body as a whole by a 4-3 vote that it be adopted, and then it came through the commission as a whole and it split 6-6 on my proposal. So I just wanted to give you that feeling for where the commission was on it and ask that you adopt the amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion at the moment is to return the bill for a specific amendment. All those in favor of that Beutler motion vote aye, opposed vote no. Record.

CLERK: 32 ayes, 0 nays on the motion to return the bill, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is carried. The bill is returned.

SENATOR BEUTLER: I would move the adoption of the amendment, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER MARVEL: All those in favor of that motion vote aye,