

the teacher wrote a little axiom she wrote on the blackboard, it went something like this: If at first you don't succeed, try, try again. I think it had to do with my graduating from the eighth grade, I'm not sure, but apparently Senator Schmit has learned this quote very, very well. This is the third time. It was defeated both other times. I continue to oppose the bill like I have before, even with the amendment. I recall twelve years ago, I happened to be in DC in the office of a certain person that had to do with energy. He gave me a book. The book was entitled, "The Energy, the Coming Energy Crisis". I read the book somewhat with alarm and yet I did not believe what it said. It had been written several years before, in fact about seven or eight years before which takes us back seventeen, eighteen years. The authors of the book predicted what we were going to get into as far as energy crisis was concerned. I didn't think they were accurate. There were gasline wars. We could buy gasoline at a very low price. I didn't believe it could happen but it did and we are in that position today. The same thing is happening with respect to this wonderful resource we have in Nebraska that we call water. I have here with me only a part of the file that I have that should alarm us, what could be ahead of us. Today Nebraska stands on a high peak of decision making. Either we are going to store some of the water that is available to us or we are heading towards the same problems we had with energy...that we are having with the energy today. I'm going to make reference to only a few of the various publications and quotes that I have on file in my office. Here is one of them entitled "Fies on the Prarie". I'm going to read only a paragraph out of this publication. Here is what I am reading, "There is not much hope for a natural recharge in many of the areas and depleted water levels will eventually force farmers back to dry land crop production. This would indeed incur an economic disaster. Irrigation, higher yields require vast amounts of additional fuels, fertilizers, much storage capacity, transportation and the like. And, the many booming industries that have grown with irrigation may also shrink with it". That is all I'll read from that publication. I have here a recent publication put out by CDM News and the front page has this quotes in large figures, or in large letters, "Water, are we running out?" I have a copy of the Ag Scope, again the caption on the front page is "A country without water." Last of all a year ago the World Herald put out a detailed report again the caption on the front page is "Water, will it last?" Ladies and gentlemen of the Legislature we are making a decision today that is going to be far reaching. I think