

SENATOR SCHMIT: They don't have to disobey the law, Senator. They don't need to disobey the law. All they have to do is to say in our opinion we do not need controls as stringent as the Lower Platte South has imposed and, therefore, we are not going to do anything. I think what you are doing here, Senator Beutler, and I don't want to embarrass anyone by asking how many tens of thousands or hundreds of thousands of dollars have been spent now by one Natural Resource District litigating with another Natural Resource District. It was never the intention of this Legislature to create that sort of a situation but it has developed. We have found situations where hundreds of thousands of dollars are being spent now in litigation between two Natural Resource Districts who disagree about how to conserve our resources and, frankly, I don't think in fairness to Senator Beutler they are so concerned about conserving as they are about who gets to use them, and so as a result we see these people that keep glancing toward the Platte River all the time and Senator Kremer about has me convinced that he is entitled to some of that water. But the point I want to make is that I don't see where we have any thing to gain from this mechanism, because if the Lower Platte North does not feel deeply enough about the imposition of a control area to do it on their own, they are certainly not going to adopt restrictions that would in any way, shape or form conform with the idea of the Lower Platte South, and so I don't see that we are going to gain anything. It sounds good in theory. In practice I do not believe it will work, Senator Beutler.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Beutler, do you wish to close?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Yes, your light is the only light on.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, let me point out to you one very important political fact that exists in this state right now and that political fact is that all elements involved in the water disputes in this state are at the present time committed to local control. It doesn't matter who you are talking about on the Public Works Committee, it doesn't matter who you are talking about in the Legislature, there may be one or two who don't feel this way, but by and large we have all committed ourselves to seeking solutions to our water problems through mechanisms involving local control, and what I am suggesting to you today is the means of preserving local control because the fact that the local NRDs are autonomous and the fact that the pools of water underlying different NRDs is the Achilles heel of this system, if you do not correct that