

January 13, 1982

LB 401

more. Senator Haberman, do you wish to be recognized?

SENATOR HABERMAN: Yes, I do, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: On the motion to advance?

SENATOR HABERMAN: Yes, Mr. President. Mr. President, and members of the Legislature, to answer Senator Schmit. There have been areas who have been trying to get control areas, who have been trying to conserve water, who have been trying to save their water, and the Department of Water Resources says, no, you have got to wait 5...6 years, you have got to spend all this money for all these studies. You have got to go through all this hoopla, you cannot have a control area until you do all this study and spend all these hundreds of thousands of dollars. So while this is all happening, what is happening? People are coming in and drilling thousands of water wells and using the water. Why? Because bureaucracy drags its feet. Bureaucracy is so slow. Bureaucracy says, no, we take another look. That is why maybe we need legislation like this, to let those people in those areas who have a water problem have water legislation. I have been down here three years and what water legislation have we put out, to help the people in the Sandhills, to help the people in North Platte? Name me, what legislation have we put out? We haven't. We haven't put any out. But this bill will give those people the opportunity to put in an area now when they need it if they want it. That is why I say we need a bill like this because they can act and they can act now and they don't have to wait and study and wait and study and hire attorneys and do this and do that. If the people vote it, they can do it. So that is why I am supporting this bill. And I am saying if we move it to Select File and there are some things in it, we can change it. So let's pass it on to Select File and go on from there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Cullan. The motion is the advancement of the bill.

SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, at this point in time I am going to vote against advancing LB 401 because I believe that LB 401 is in need of some amending. I seriously question the constitutionality of the bill in its respect to allowing rural people to vote on this issue and not allowing urban people to vote on water on establishing a control area. Once that is resolved, however, I think that LB 401 would be a step in the right direction, and I would urge the introducers of the bill to