

January 19, 1982

LB 375

offered and this time I do not stand in favor of acceptance of those amendments but I will keep an open mind in the event that I might want to change my mind after they have been introduced or if someone chooses to introduce those amendments. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Kremer.

SENATOR KREMER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, Senator Schmit has pretty thoroughly explained what we're trying to do as we talk about the white copy which actually is in the form of an amendment to the bill that came out of committee. I will not pursue the explanation of the bill but in the time that I have this morning I would like to lay some groundwork calling your attention to how serious this matter of conserving and developing this great resource that we have in our State of Nebraska. I would like to start out by calling your attention to a piece of paper that I had placed on your desk this morning. It looks like a jungle of some kind. Now what this is and I'd like to have you have a look at it. These are headlines that I have placed in my file that have appeared during I think the last two years only, headlines coming from newspapers like the Denver Post, the Kansas City Times, Grand Island Independent, some of our monthly magazines like the U.S. News and World Report, they are all there. I've got a whole stack of them and these were put together in this form that you have on your desk this morning. I think it tells the story. I wish you would look at it and this is the reason why we in the State of Nebraska need to do a good job in determining what course we are going to take in this state in making the best possible use of practically the only resource we have in the way of a natural resource outside of our land and our good people, of course. Okay, my next comment will be the result of some research that I had my staff put together, not unrelated to the bill. I've asked my staff to contact the high plains states that surround our State of Nebraska to see what they are doing because they find themselves in the same position as Nebraska does and in some cases much more serious. I'm referring now to the action that is being proposed by the Governors of these states and by the people that have been given the responsibility of coming out with good water planning and good water law and the funds it is going to take to administer those programs. I will start out with commenting what is happening in the far South in the State of Texas. Now I am laying this before you for a reason because we've got our work and our responsibility cut out for us. "The State of Texas commit 50% of total funds to water development fund which could be used for loans for storage and land acquisition to store water, allow up to not a million but

6872