

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. President and members, as I believe Senator Nichol mentioned, we had a session this morning with the Speaker trying to figure out how to attack the problems that we have in this Legislature. We are never going to agree on all the ideas that we have about controlling water, never in a thousand years but I think what is critical, and I don't talk very much about water issues. Senator Kremer and I are probably the veterans in this body when it comes to irrigation. We both started in the early Thirties. I have probably pumped more water and shoveled more dirt with a spade than most people do in their lifetime or two lifetimes. But there is something behind this whole thing. To get to the issue before us, I think we can waste all the time you want to, and you may not call it wasted time, it may be very necessary, but as far as a hundred percent agreement, I don't think we are going to get it. You know we are an independent people and especially farmers. My grandfather came to the edge of the Platte River one hundred and one years ago and I will tell you what...you didn't tell him very much. He ran that operation the way he wanted to and didn't care about anybody else. Those days are over. There is no way we are going to be able to operate that way. I argued for many years that that water under my land was mine and there just wasn't anybody else going to tell me what to do with it. I have changed my mind. I don't believe it is going to work that way. I just don't believe that we can live that way any more. I think we are going to have to get together and we are going to have to take some controls. The issue isn't whether you like this bill or another bill. The whole issue is whether you want to have strict controls or not or whether you want to be your own boss or whether your city cousin has the right to that water or whether you have the right to it solely. That is the problem and we can argue the rest of this session about it and we are never going to agree a hundred percent. No way! So what I am saying is that let's process this bill. I think it is the best thing that has come across so far. I don't like all of it. There is no one in here that likes all of it. I would like to go on just like I did the last fifty years and do as I blame well please on my farm with what I think is my water but those days are over. We can't do that any more and we just must get together and get some controls on there that we may not like. Our independence is over when it comes to water and I think the sooner we bring this bill up, if it isn't right, we will sure be back here next year to change it and I think we have argued long enough over many years and did absolutely nothing very substantial. I think we should go ahead with it, and if there are amendments that Senator Beutler and others want