

January 19, 1982

LB 375

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Kahle.

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. President, members, I really think we are talking about a nothing issue, none of us know what the future is going to bring. A year ago right now we thought we were in a terrible drouth crisis. We did not receive any snow. We had a dry Fall. Even this last Spring we thought disaster was sure going to strike. Mere man is only fooling with what God has provided for us and we don't know what that future brings. We don't know how much rain is going to fall. We don't know exactly how much recharge we are going to have. I like to use an example, and again I go back to the Thirties. In 1934, the water table in our area was lower than it has ever been since and probably ever will be and many people were predicting gloom and doom and we hadn't even started to irrigate. I think what we need to do is to use the tools that we have and attempt, attempt as far as humanly possible to conserve the water we have and to use it to the best possible use. But as far as to write legislation that you are not going to use any more than you put in or that it is going to come up or go down, we don't have control of that really. We may have control of the use, and I am all for that, but you just...I think we are just wasting time discussing this issue. We don't know whether we are going to have water for future generations or not. We may have more. At one time this whole country was under water apparently. Thank you.

SENATOR CLARK: The question before the House is the adoption of the Vickers amendment. Senator Vickers will close.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President and members, first of all I would like to indicate that I understand what Senator Kremer indicated to us originally, that there are certain areas of this state that unfortunately cannot foresee their aquifer lasting indefinitely and I recognize that and I indicated that in my opening remarks. But I think we need to understand that what we're making here is broad policy statements and this is not shoving it down anybody's throat. This whole management scheme is discretionary to be used by the natural resources districts. We're indicating what our desires are. Furthermore, I suggest to you that if 375 becomes law, that this type of policy decisions that we're making will be used in the future for the Director of the Department of Water Resources when he decides whether or not control areas can be established perhaps or if it is not used from this it will be slipped over in the other statutes I would assume over in other sections. I want you to understand the language that I am suggesting. Now realize that I come from an area where if you will recall LB 252 of a year ago, I would like to get some addi-

6893