

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. President and members, I guess I am kind of bewildered this morning at those of you that think because we are going to make some sort of decision in this great body about how many years the aquifer is going to last that you are doing something. Good night, it changes every day. We are told now that there is 7 to 8 feet of snow in one of the Rocky Mountains that feed our streams and fill our reservoirs. Just a year ago we had nothing. As a farmer, I have learned a long time ago that the science of farming or the ability to actually plan the minute details often go array and astray because of the different things that can happen, but to pass legislation here saying that we are definitely going to have or even strive for a certain amount of the aquifer left in a 100 years in my estimation is certainly wasting our time. We don't even know what the good Lord is going to do with us in that time and how much rainfall we are going to receive, how much wind we are going to have to dry out our fields. We don't know what the crop production will be. We may have developed crops by then that use half as much water or twice as much. And if there has ever been an amendment that is worthless and useless and nonsense, it is this one. I know that you are going to say, well, we are going to have a goal we are going to shoot for. As I said yesterday, I have been at this a long time and we had people shouting fowl some 40 years ago that we were going to pump all the water out of the aquifer and you could point to Texas where they have almost accomplished that. So I think what we are trying to do here in this Legislature is pass some legislation that we could work...as tools to work with. There isn't a one of us that wants that aquifer to be gone in a 100 years or 200 years or 300 years, but we certainly aren't going to guarantee anything by passing legislation in the Nebraska Legislature to do that. It is going to be up to the people and how we handle it and then up to the good Lord how much moisture is going to fall on us. So I oppose this sort of thing. It is just like trying to do something you have no control of. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Kremer.

SENATOR KREMER: What is the question? Is it my turn to speak?

PRESIDENT: Yes.

SENATOR KREMER: Mr. Chairman, I would like to visit with Senator Hoagland in the way of a question, if I may.

PRESIDENT: All right, you have a question then....