

January 20, 1982

LB 375

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Howard Peterson.

SENATOR H. PETERSON: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I would just rise to oppose the Hoagland amendment. I'd say first of all I think both Senator Kahle and Senator Maurice Kremer have very ably argued the question. I would hope that this group who seems to be so intent on placing year figures in this bill would be as concerned or more concerned about making it possible for us to store water in this state. I really believe that the only answer to this problem in the long pull is for us to build sizeable dams all over this state wherever we can and it seems to me that ought to be our top priority rather than worrying about whether we can control the rain, whether we can control the flood, and I just would call the attention of this Legislature it is likely this year with the amount of snow we have in the mountains and the moisture we already have in the soil from last fall's rain that we will see go down the Platte River and the Missouri River and flooding our whole state enough water that probably would have lasted us for five years. So this is the reason why it seems to me that it is really very foolish for us to try to predict what nature is going to do.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator DeCamp. Question. Do I see five hands? I do. The question is, shall debate cease? All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. The motion is, shall debate cease? Have you all voted? Well, record the vote.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 4 nays, Mr. President, to cease debate.

PRESIDENT: The motion carries. Debate ceases. Senator Hoagland, you may close on your amendment to the amendment.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Thank you, Mr. President. I just have a few remarks in closing. Senator Schmit and I...Senator Schmidt indicated that he and I are 180 degrees opposite in the water issues from a philosophical point of view. I am not sure that is correct, but let me indicate in this particular area what my viewpoint is and if its 180 degrees - different than Senator Schmit's, I think that people in this state need to understand that. When it comes to dealing with the aquifers that we have in the State of Nebraska, it is my philosophy that we should make them last as long as we possibly can. We have the technology, we have the ability to measure what the aquifers are. We have the ability to predict pretty much how much water is going to be available and given the technology and the knowledge,