

what really is or is not going on in the area of water that are completely out of touch with reality. And so, Senator Hoagland, if I were urging you to do one thing it would be let's say to talk to somebody in the area of water, talk to some of our geologists, talk to some of the people that have been working on it. Talk to somebody other than Lou Gerdes. Deal with some of the people that are really caring about it and have investments in it, and possibly you also can become a part of the solution rather than a part of the problem.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Howard Peterson.

SENATOR H. PETERSON: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I would like to answer Senator Hoagland on his question. I believe probably I know the Republican River and the dams up and down that river about as well as anyone in this Legislature since I had a fertilizer plant in McCook and spoke all over that area on the use of fertilizer and watched the development of irrigation in that area. I happen also to be old enough to remember the Republican River flood of 1935, and I would submit to you, Senator Hoagland, that if we had another flood like that this year, we would fill all those dams up and then some, and that specifically is what those dams were built for. They were built to protect that area from another flood, and we need to understand that as we look at this whole water issue. Further than that, as you well know, the Enders people have before the Water Commission right now a request to transfer water from the South Platte River over to the Enders Dam. Now if we had all the dams that I talked about built in Nebraska and we had those full of water, then I would say it would be a great possibility this spring that as that flood comes down that South Platte which I am confident will happen, we could fill that Enders Dam completely full, and we would be filling it from a stream that does have water in it and at times in excessive amounts.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Fowler.

SENATOR FOWLER: Mr. President, I would swear Senator DeCamp switched field on this issue in 24 hours. It's not necessarily surprising, I guess, but yesterday Senator Vickers had an amendment that says let's make this indefinite. Let's say that we will preserve this water indefinitely. And that was rejected because it was said, this can't last, we can't predict, we can't make it last indefinitely. Well, Senator Hoagland proposes today, well let's put at least a minimum life span on it, a certain