

there is a single one of us here in this body that does not want to exercise to the best of our ability a plan and a program to make the water in Nebraska last as long as possible. And I repeat, I think we can do that. Now let's get down to the amendment, Senator Hoagland, that you are offering us today. You will recall our discussion following the hearing in the Public Works Committee last week and we talked about the 1 percent depreciation, and I was referred several times to the model that was set up and I use one example and there is four of them for areas like this in the state that was set up in the Upper Big Blue, and if this model is correct to any extent of being right, in the Upper Big Blue we probably will be running out of water approximately speaking in about 35 or 40 years. There is another report also bringing this out. Now if you shut down depletion to 1 percent, you are almost going to destroy any irrigation in that area. What's the alternative? Shut it down to the extent practical so that those that have purchased farms and real estate and mortgaged that land and put down an irrigation system, they are not going to pay off that mortgage. I believe and I think I have evidence to support it that if we will do what is practical and then store some of the water that is now flowing out of the state by the millions of acre feet, we can recharge these aquifers and we can make it last 100 years, but to do it now by law is going to shut down the irrigation in that area and in about two other areas in a certain length of time. We just can't do that. It is impractical. It won't work. If we want to destroy the economy of the state this is one way to do it, Senator Hoagland, and I think I discussed this with you very thoroughly after the committee hearing the other day. Therefore, I am going to have to oppose your amendment, Senator Hoagland, although I agree with you that we do want to make our water last as long as possible and I still think we can but this is not the way to do it. I oppose the Hoagland amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Chair recognizes Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I rise to oppose Senator Hoagland's amendment. In Public Works just the other day we had a hearing on Senator Hoagland's bill, 958, which would do approximately the same thing he is talking about here, except in that bill he would give the Director of Water Resources the power to declare a control area, in other words, would give the state increased authority in the situation he