

I guess I can't quite follow that logic. But I repeat, for the Imperial area, for the Big and Little Blue areas, that already have control areas established, a 1 percent requirement would do nothing since that is a control area and what this section is going into is a management area. It wouldn't shut down one well out there. The intention, I thought, of LB 375 was to prevent certain things from happening and I thought that is what Senator Hoagland's amendment was going to help clarify so that local people could manage the resource before the horse starting going out of the barn door. I would urge the body's adoption of this amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Kahle, do you wish to....?

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. Speaker and members, I missed part of the debate this morning and I am sorry for that, but I would like to have Senator Beutler tell me what he means by 1 percent....Hoagland, I mean. One percent of the aquifer, how would that be determined? Could you help me?

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Senator Kahle....is my microphone on? Senator Kahle, earlier in the debate, I read a passage from the recommendations of the Natural Resources Commission following a study that has cost us several hundreds of thousands of dollars. This amendment implements that recommendation. Now let me read what the recommendation says. "We recommend that the maximum allowable depletion rate be no greater than 5 percent of the saturated thickness over a 5-year period."

SENATOR KAHLE: Thickness of what?

SENATOR HOAGLAND: The saturated thickness of the aquifer, and that measurement and that judgment as to what saturated thickness is would be made the local Natural Resource District.

SENATOR KAHLE: Well, my point is that the aquifer isn't a square box and it would be very difficult to tell what 1 percent or 5 percent of that aquifer would be. If you would put water in a pan, it is not flat on the bottom, the aquifer is not flat on the bottom. So I don't believe you can determine what 1 percent of the aquifer or 5 percent of the aquifer would be, especially not with the figures and statistics we have today. I don't think we know enough about that aquifer. We just heard the other day that it's as deep what, as 600 feet in places. I had no idea it was that deep. I know it is a couple of