

February 24, 1982

LB 375

memorandum and I would urge the Legislature to adopt this particular amendment. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR HEFNER PRESIDING

SENATOR HEFNER: The Chair recognizes Senator Schmit on the Hoagland amendment.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, once again we discuss the amendment which has been discussed repeatedly many, many times in many, many places by many, many people, most of whom again did not agree with Senator Hoagland. Senator Hoagland refers to....I would just like to point out inconsistency and I hope that...I do not mean to belittle Senator Hoagland's information or to deride his accuracy, but he has described a small farmer as one who owns 3, 4, or 5 sections. Now, members of the Legislature, if all members here who are in agriculture will stand up who own between 1920 acres and 3200 acres, I will be pleased to count you. You are talking about people who own 3000 acres, Senator Hoagland, as being a small farmer. I suggest to you that the average size of a farm in Nebraska is much, much less than that now, and I suggest that the rest of your information is basically as inaccurate and is lacking in facts as those facts you just used to describe a small farmer. The reason for allocating water upon irrigated acres is very simple. It is one which is logical, reasonable and effective. Why would you want to limit the pumping of water on a farm on which there is no pump? Why issue an allocation of water to a farmer who has no irrigation well? You are allocating inches of water to an area where only the good Lord can apply water through rainfall, and we have no control over that much as we might want to try sometime. You are bringing into this context a totally different point of view. You do not mention the fact, Senator Hoagland, that you are trying to use the principal of actual acres as a method of land use control. Now there are persons who would agree with you. The individual who does not choose to develop land would like to have an actual acre allocation perhaps of 3 inches per acre. If he owned 30,000 acres and he had 3000 acres under irrigation, he would still have 30 inches per irrigated acre, but you have to own 30,000 acres in order to irrigate it. Now if you find an actual small farmer who has 300 acres and you allocate 300 acres, he can only...3 inches per owned acre, he can only irrigate 30 acres. Absolutely impractical. If you want to use it as a land use measure, say so. If you want to use it as a method of allocation