

March 11, 1982

LB 577

SENATOR WESELY: Okay, that's fine.

PRESIDENT: So you want to go right ahead?

SENATOR WESELY: Yes.

PRESIDENT: All right, the Chair recognizes Senator Wesely on the motion to indefinitely postpone.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I put this kill motion up here just so we could at least discuss the concept behind this bill. We had, I think, almost no discussion on General File. I think that it moved rather quickly and it is too important an issue to leave to minimal debate on the floor of the Legislature. I think as you can tell that there was also very little discussion in committee with only Dayle Williamson supporting Senator Koch's motion at that time on the bill. So it seems pretty clear to me that we ought to at least talk about the concept of how are we going to deal with water development in the State of Nebraska? What is the best funding aspect to that? And what I think is wrong about LB 577 is that it has been taken out of the context of other legislation dealing with water development in the state and how we are to fund that development. We have several bills in the Public Works Committee which Senator Koch is a member of where we have discussed the concept of taking a half cent or a full cent of sales tax. Senator Sieck has got a bill on that and Senator Schmit, Senator Kremer, others, dealing with the issue of how do we develop water projects in the state. We have those bills in committee. We are looking at those issues in committee and it seems wrong in my estimation to then take a bill, take a concept through another committee that hasn't looked at the full water picture as we have in Public Works Committee, present them with a comprehensive bill such as this and then have it come on the floor with minimal debate, move right across and pass in this Legislature. I think one of the big drawbacks about the Unicameral process and also one of its great advantages at the same time is the quickness in which legislation can pass. That can both be to the detriment and to the advantage of the general public. In this case I think it is to the detriment of the public not to fully discuss this issue, and I think it does behoove us to take a little caution and take a little time to at least consider the concept. Now what is the concept? The concept is that the State of Nebraska issues revenue bonds through a constitutional amendment, builds up the money it needs for water projects in the state, pays those back over a period of time and develops the water projects. Well, it sounds