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constitutional amendment as an alternative measure, a tool for the state to use. I have been here eight years and I will recite what I told you the other day. We have talked a great deal about impounding water in the state which constantly escapes, and for those of us who think we can do it with a cent of cigarette tax are absolutely wrong. A million and eight dollars hardly builds a glorified dam on a farm pasture. When I think of water structure impoundment, I am talking about large structures which will capture many, many acre feet of water and be placed in the most appropriate place in the State of Nebraska where it can be utilized for the enhancement of our agribusinesses and agriculture, for recreation and other great purposes. My idea of building a structure today, if you look at the costs, would be no less than probably \$20 million in any one shot to build anything that is worthwhile, and I will restate for you again and you have heard it many times like I have. It is estimated that we lose approximately seven million acres of feet of water a year and maintain only one million acre feet of water right now. And if we want to get in the business of conserving and managing our water, then this is the only way to do it because we can't do it on a nickel and dime basis. So I am asking you to oppose the indefinite postponement. Let the people advise us of what they wish to do. If they are favorable, then next year this Legislature can take the reports and studies that have been given to us and start by priority base of establishing water impoundment structures which are needed in many places. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Cope.

SENATOR COPE: Mr. President and members, water isn't just the problem of the agricultural areas. Water isn't just the problem of the urban areas. Water is a problem of every person in the State of Nebraska and anything we can do to impound water is going to be to the benefit of every person in the state, and I think it is just as simple as that. And there is no way in the world that the Legislature can budget enough money in any single year to do any measurable good. I think Senator Kremer made the best point too. If there is any structures that are going to be built with federal funds, we are going to have to get a good share or a part of... depending on how long we put this off, of money from the state. If we do it as quickly as possible, we might get a reasonable share of it from the federal government. But I believe eventually we are going to do it on our own if we delay too long. I think it is a good bill.

PRESIDENT: Senator Koch, did you wish to speak again and then we are ready for a close?

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