

SENATOR VICKERS: Thank you, Senator Haberman. Mr. President and members, I will consider this as a friendly amendment and will accept the amendment with the understanding as Senator Haberman indicated that he will then support the bill. I understand that some people did have some problems with the fact that we were dealing with both surface water and sub-irrigation and as I indicated earlier, I knew that was a major step, recognizing the correlation of surface water and underground water. So with that understanding that Senator Haberman then will support the bill and I will also tell you that probably we will be dealing with this issue in years to come but I certainly will accept the amendment at this time and urge the body's adoption of it.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, of course the oldest trick in the books is one which you are seeing Senator Haberman offer here today. It kind of reminds me of an ornery steer I had in the pen one time. He had horns and he wouldn't let anything up to the bunk and we took the horns off of him and then we thought he wasn't such a bad steer but it didn't change his disposition a damn bit. He is still the same kind of a steer. Taking the horns off of this thing isn't going to make it any better bill and I want to call your attention to the fact that just because you are going to get stomped and gored and tromped later on, it's not going to make it any less or any more enjoyable. I want to call your attention to a couple of things. First of all as Senator Kremer said this morning, for two full sessions virtually we argued water on 375. We heard the committee discuss the bill time after time. We heard the committee wrestle with the problem in committee. The bill came to the floor by a majority vote of this body. The bill was debated and debated and debated clear across the board. There were dozens of attempts to amend the bill. Some of the very issues that you are going to discuss in 726 were soundly rejected in 375 and so what you do you come in with another bill and you attempt to run the thing through and the good old boy syndrome comes into play. They say, well we gave somebody else a bill, let's give this guy a bill. Now that is how you get into a lot of trouble on this floor and next year or the year after or a couple of years from now you come back and say, well we made a mistake. We've got to correct this and we've got to correct that. Except I want to warn you that you are working with an item, a resource which is not easily repaired, damage is not easily repaired once it has been caused. You talk about the surface, subsurface. I have walked, ridden, driven, flown over the sandhills for thirty-five years. I think I know the sandhills as well as anybody. I can tell you that in the '30s there were thousands of lakes out there that dried up and there