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LB 726

SENATOR HABERMAN: That is right.

SENATOR SCHMIT: In other words, you are going to deny to those individuals in those six or seven or nine townships or eight townships the right to have any voice about how they want to develop their area.

SENATOR HABERMAN: That is exactly the way it is in the control area when they deny drilling a well (interruption.)

SENATOR SCHMIT: No, it is not that way, Senator. Thank you, Senator Haberman.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Well thank you, Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: The point I want to make is this, Mr. President, there are areas of development in the sandhills. We know that. And Senator Kahle has pointed out and as most of us can tell you, that these areas are local. They are not spread clear over the areas but what you are doing here is you are allowing an area that is predominantly one type of agriculture...

PRESIDENT: One minute, Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...to impose its type of agriculture upon another area which may lend itself to a different type of utilization. That is fine until the time comes when that rancher may want to utilize it himself as Senator Kahle has pointed out. When that time comes, Senator Haberman, he will find that he has shot himself in the toe of his \$500 boot and then he will come screaming back to you and if you are here, you will rush forward and say we've got to correct this problem once again which I inadvertently caused a couple of years ago. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Hoagland.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Mr. President and colleagues, I would like to rise in support of this bill and try to straighten out some misconceptions I think that the opponents of this bill have been stating in their floor speeches. Now let me emphasize from the beginning what this bill does. This bill simply gives more power to the locally elected Natural Resource Districts to attempt to carry out their responsibilities for managing water. We're not making any policy decisions here on the floor of the Legislature about stopping irrigation development in the sandhills or anything else. All we're doing is delegating a little bit more of our constitutional authority down to the locally elected Natural Resource Districts. This bill stands for local control. Now in the area of county government, the Nebraska Legislature through the years has had no reservations about