

I agree with that. Now Senator Vickers and Senator Beutler have given us a measure which is their reasonable conception of a way of dealing with these fragile lands. Senator Peterson points out that counties have zoning authority and they have land use authority and they have planning authority and they could address it but it doesn't seem to get done because the devastation goes on. Natural Resource Districts have some authority and Senator Beutler and Senator Vickers would give it some more and I say more power to them, more power to them because you and I just can't stand here, in my opinion, as legislators and watch our beautiful environment, really our sacred soil laid low. I ask myself from time to time how must the legislators have been like in West Virginia when the coal mines first began down there when the great economic prosperity began in West Virginia but the land was torn down. What were the legislators doing at that time as the land was being torn down for economic development purposes and now it is just a wasteland? It is the heart of Appalachia with considerable poverty. It has always struck me that we have wanted to put economic interests ahead of environmental concerns and we pay the price eventually. Eventually we pay the price. So I think this is one of those occasions, we'll have many more but this is one of those occasions when we can say, if you want to do what is a reasonable measure, at least as we see it to be a reasonable measure, to try to protect lands that are very valuable to all of us in an aesthetic sense and in our own sense for well being. So I do support this measure.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Cope.

SENATOR COPE: Mr. President, members, a question of Senator Vickers. Senator Vickers, would you give me your definition of subirrigation?

SENATOR VICKERS: Of subirrigation? Well I guess the definition we try to define it in the bill, Senator Cope. The definition and language concerning subirrigation is on page 5 and we use, as amended by the Haberman amendment of a little bit ago, "subirrigation shall mean the irrigation of any type of plant or vegetation used for agricultural purposes through the natural and not artificially induced currents of the groundwater table within the root zone of such plants or vegetation."

SENATOR COPE: Right. Now is there any difference between subirrigation in the Sandhills and subirrigation, say in the Platte Valley?

SENATOR VICKERS: It depends on where you are at in the Platte Valley. I assume if you are on down next to the river on perhaps the North side of the river down in the