

SENATOR COPE: ...continue it.

PRESIDENT: Senator DeCamp, I recognize you.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I was just going to kind of wait for the vote on this and quietly vote but some things have been said that I think need to be answered. Senator Hoagland maybe made the best argument against the bill. Senator Hoagland said it does nothing, a little local control and gives some of our constitutional responsibility away so on and so forth and he said two important things. He said this isn't designed to interfere with LB 375 and we all know 375 was the bill that developed the concept that this Legislature said okay, we're going to recognize water as a resource that we need to manage, that we need to supervise, that we need to take care of. He said it is not going to interfere with that. Why were we doing 375 so that we could avoid having to go into forced control areas? That was the purpose of 375, manage our resource now to avoid the forced control and then Senator Hoagland said, if you listened, he said it's going to take three, four, five years to get that put together so this would allow us to go to control areas immediately. In other words, a complete repudiation of the whole concept of 375 which was to manage to avoid controls, we're now going to come in the back door and slip in a system that immediately puts in controls or a control area. Methinks the bill was intended, now that I hear the arguments of Senator Hoagland, for the very purpose of eliminating or destroying 375. I do agree that we have to legislatively deal with the interrelationship of ground and surface water. I guess I think this is not the right approach. I think there are legal relationships that have to be developed but it is obvious that the intent of the proponents is not, as I had anticipated, it is completely different and it is to bypass or go around our groundwater management legislation. Now Senator Johnson in some of the most stirring words, and they were stirring, they were impressive, talked about the pristine beauty of the land, the rolling hills and then he phrased the changes that have occurred there, in my area by the way, as destruction, devastation caused by cupidity, which is greed, avarice, and so on and so forth. I watched destruction occur in Lincoln every day since I have been here. I watched them blow up and destroy the Cornhusker Hotel so they could build something new so they could make the city better so they could develop a resource they had there, their land, and yes, indeed, in just the years I have been down here the land has changed dramatically. Land that used to produce a thousand dollars on a quarter of land from hay now is producing twenty or thirty or fifty thousand dollars