

March 18, 1982

LB 726

PRESIDENT: The question is called for. Do I see five hands? I do. The question is, shall debate cease. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? The question is, shall debate cease. Record the vote.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: The motion carries. Debate ceases and now who is going to close? Senator Vickers, are you going to close or Senator Beutler? Senator Vickers.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President, members, I don't remember when I've heard so many words in the English language used and so little said as I have this afternoon. I want to set one thing perfectly clear. It makes me a little bit unhappy. No, I'll take it back. It makes me damn mad when people stand up on this floor and indicate that I don't have any sympathy at all or don't understand anything about irrigation. Well I'll tell you one thing. I didn't introduce this legislation for my own personal good because it is 300 foot to water at my place. I sure as the hell don't have any sub-irrigation, I can tell you that. But I do know the purpose of irrigation and I understand the need for more development in the State of Nebraska. If it hadn't been for irrigation in my area I probably wouldn't be here. It is just that simple. Maybe that would be a good idea to a lot of people but we've got to have enough income out there to generate enough money to keep some of these young people that are here from my area in the University of Nebraska. I can assure you of that. So I don't want anybody to stand on this floor and even indicate that I'm trying to do something to shut off irrigation development because I know that everybody in this body knows that's not true and so do those people out back of the glass doors and this bill will not do that. And again I think we all know it. We've got people under the balconies that have been working this bill for several days that are ranchers that have come from 400 miles away because they believed in it. They believed in it, not so that they wouldn't be able to have a well someday, not so that it would shut off Prudential, Senator Burrows, but so that they could have development take place in an orderly fashion so they would have that resource there for, not only their children, but their children's children. That is what the issue is about. The issue is also about local control. You know several people mentioned 375 and how we shouldn't be passing this bill because of 375. Well I had this drafted. As a matter of fact almost the exact language of this bill was introduced last year as an amendment on another bill so it's been around for a couple of years too. But actually what this is, if you stop and think