

April 8, 1982

LB 726

we are not just talking about the Nebraska Sandhills. Wet meadows exist all the way up and down the Platte River, and I just feel that it is a sad mistake for us to pass legislation that will affect areas of the state where we really need to develop irrigation, and who are we to say whether or not there is need for development of irrigation even in the Sandhills in some locations. So, Mr. Chairman, it just seems to me that from the evidence that I have seen from visiting with a number of people that this kind of legislation is just as bad...just as bad as some of the legislation that is taking place in Washington D.C. in regard to dams and the kind of control that that legislation would have over the building of dams in this state. For that reason, Mr. Chairman, I would move that we indefinitely postpone LB 726.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Kahle.

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. President and members, I didn't know what turn this LB 726 would take, and it has been a difficult one to work with. We have had a lot of people writing and calling us from the Sandhill areas and I guess I thought at first it only affected the Sandhill areas and their wetlands, but after reading the bill and getting some other information I find out that probably the area that I live in will be the most affected of any part of the State of Nebraska because we certainly have subirrigation and we also have a series of drainage canals which any one farmer in that area that doesn't particularly like the water level that we happen to leave after we have those drainage canals in, could cause us problems. So I think we are in way deeper with LB 726 than any of us ever thought we were when we first heard about it, and we thought it was just a bill that affected the wetlands and the Sandhills. This is not true. This affects all subirrigated land in one way or another. And I am not even sure it doesn't affect some of it that isn't subirrigated. I don't know what else to say about it, but all up and down the Platte Valley we have subirrigated land. Senator Bill Barrett's District has some of the best alfalfa land in the world and the most dehydrating plants you will find anywhere. They wouldn't be there is it wasn't for the subirrigation of that part of the State of Nebraska. Now I am sure that this bill is not going to affect that and it is not going to put those plants out of business or change that...anything. But I guess I hadn't thought of it in that respect. The Platte River does vary up and down in the amount of subirrigation or it affects the subirrigation in my part of the State of Nebraska. When the river is high, the water table is up. When the river is low, the water table goes down, and we have had problems with, for instance, our

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