

April 8, 1982

LB 726

LB 726 is a very important piece of water legislation. There is no reason to oppose it. It gives local control, local decision making in this area. And I think it is hard for me to believe that the Natural Resource Districts in Senator Kahle's area or the Natural Resource Districts in Senator Peterson's area would institute controls based on LB 726 which would stifle existing or potential groundwater development unless that groundwater development had very serious adverse economic and hydrological consequences. So I really believe there is no fear to be associated with this bill particularly in the areas that Senator Peterson and Kahle represent. There are a great number of misconceptions about LB 726. I am not sure why those misconceptions exist. I think the concepts are not that complicated. I think there are some who like to paint LB 726 as a complicated issue because they really do not want to see individuals who rely on subirrigation to have water rights. They want those...some people I think would like to see those meadows dry up and would like to see irrigation development forced into certain regions of the Sandhills. Well, I am not a member of that group of people and I think LB 726 is important, and I think it would be very unwise of us....

PRESIDENT: One minute, Senator Cullan.

SENATOR CULLAN: .....to delay the implementation of this bill. The final point I would make is I would like to refer you to the memorandum which I distributed to you this morning when we were discussing Final Reading. I gave it to you this morning so you would have time to read it. It is a memorandum from the legal counsel of the Public Works Committee, and I would just quote this brief quotation: "It appears to me that being the legal counsel for the Public Works Committee that the adoption of these amendments, the two bills are not in conflict and can coexist as alternative means of dealing with various water problems." And so the argument that we should let LB 375 work I see as having no validity because the two issues are not necessarily tied together. LB 375 and LB 726 coexist. They complement one another. They certainly do not conflict. There is absolutely no reason that I can see to delay this bill. It certainly has no connection to LB 375 other than perhaps a pride of authorship issue which is not a valid one.

PRESIDENT: Time, Senator.

SENATOR CULLAN: I think it is time to enact LB 726, delay is unwarranted.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Landis.

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