

April 8, 1982

LB 726

area without controls. The point I am trying to make is you don't have to worry about the NRDs acting too fast. If you have to worry about anything, it is about the fact that they may not act at all. What you are doing, if you don't allow the NRDs to enter the situation, is creating a game without a referee. It is as simple as that. What is the present situation? What if I lose my subirrigation meadows now? What happens to me? Effectively nothing, I just lose them. The game the way it is played right now is in favor of those using the groundwater for irrigation. So if you don't put any referee in the game, then you have effectively decided the game totally in favor of grain development...grain crop development. Now if that is what you want to do, fine. But if you want to give the NRDs some power to balance the situation, if you want to take a traditional conservative point of view and pay some attention to those people that have been there for hundreds of years using subirrigation....

PRESIDENT: One minute, Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...if you are concerned about their way of life and their economy, if you think they deserve some means of reconciling their differences with the new incoming development, then 726 is the bill for you.

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

CLERK: 25 ayes, 1 nay to cease debate, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Motion carries, debate ceases. Who is going to close? Senator Vickers. Senator Vickers will close.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President and members, there has been a number of statements about...made about the intention of this bill about where the support is coming from that I take quite a bit of issue to. First of all, when we talk about what the intent of the bill is, there is only one group that has been printing any handouts talking about what the intent is that I know of, and their intent is to make the bill look as bad as possible, obviously. They are saying that if this bill passes there will be no further irrigation development any place you put a control area in, period, and it is going to shut down the wells that are there and there is not going to be any irrigation. That is very strange when you consider that the irrigation...or the