

April 8, 1982

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areas of the state that do have control areas right now still have irrigation. I don't know of one irrigation well that has been cemented shut out in Senator Haberman's District. They are still irrigating and they will if they put a control area anyplace as a result of this also. We fail to recognize or we fail to give any consideration at all to the fact that local people might have a few brains. They might be able to figure out what they really want to do. We all fail to recognize that. It has been mentioned that drainage would be a reason for a control area. Well, if you read the bill, that is not true. Development and utilization of the groundwater supply, that is part of the existing language. That doesn't say anything about drainage. That is a bunch of poppycock and they all know it. Somebody mentioned that the Natural Resource Districts weren't supporting it. That is strange since many NRD lobbyist has been out here supporting it the last week or so. Somebody also mentioned about the experts, how we should listen to the experts. Somebody mentioned also that we were moving too fast. Well, that is strange. For two years in a row now I have been involved with hearings and I can name off the towns, Ogallala, Mullen, Bassett, Mullen again and Ord. Now that is not exactly suburban Omaha, I would suggest to you, and that is not exactly moving real quick when that has been over a three-year period. So I think there is a little bit of a misunderstanding there also. Senator Barrett shared with me copies of some phone calls that he was getting yesterday and Senator Rumery just showed me some letters, and not a one of those is from Omaha, Lincoln or any other urban area. And it makes me a little upset when people say, well, this is being promoted by urban people, why don't you let us agricultural people do it ourselves? Hell, what do you think I come....do you think farms have a population of 960,000? Not quite. I have to own my own tomcat. I don't exactly call that an urban area. These people out here that have been supporting this and all these letters and phone calls have to own their own tomcats too. All they want is a chance. All they want is us to give them the opportunity to protect their resource in their area as they see fit. And all that some people here want to do is say, no, no, no, no, you people in the urban areas should remember that this requires equipment if we sell more irrigation facilities and that equipment is made and manufactured in urban areas so you urban people should vote against this bill. Well, I guess that tells where the side is coming from that doesn't want this bill to pass. It seems to me that people are not recognizing the fact that subirrigation and irrigated cornfields could survive and can survive side by side, and I think we all know they can. They can't, however,

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