

April 6, 1989

LB 710

opposed nay. Please record.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of Senator Scofield's amendment to the bill.

SPEAKER BARRETT: The amendment is adopted.

CLERK: I have nothing further on the bill, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Scofield.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated, the amendment now becomes the bill. I would ask you to advance the bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Discussion, Senator Elmer.

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you, Mr. President and members. This is an additional study of legal matters surrounding the use of water and the use of water between states. It does not change the fact that we are using our water more and more and more, and that we do need to address the issues of the interrelationships between ground water and surface water, and provide in statutes some regulations for the use of that. That's the basic problem that we're having is that people are very reluctant to acknowledge that the water that underlies all our land in the state belongs to the citizens of Nebraska and not the individual landowner that overlies the water. And, as the property...the water is the property of the state, then we should be regulating it for the benefit and the future of all our state. The study will help us with legal matters between the states, but it won't solve the problem of the need to put in statute methods to regulate the quantity and quality of the water in Nebraska. I'm very similar to Loran in the...or to Senator Schmit in the feeling about this. Perhaps it will help, but it doesn't really change any of the basics. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Any other discussion? Senator Scofield.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Thank you. I appreciate Senator Elmer's concerns, and in fact he asked some very good questions in the committee that I think shed some light on this whole issue. I would disagree with at least one point, and that is while people are very much, and understandably so, protective of their ground