

April 6, 1989

LB 646, 710

water, I don't think we have fully explored all the avenues that we have, as a state, to protect what is one of our most important resources. And, in fact, I can appreciate the skepticism that I think Senator Elmer views this with a little bit, just because I think we're all a bit skeptical from time to time of studies. But the fact of the matter is we really didn't look at that whole interstate commerce clause question, we really didn't push that very far. In fact, Senator Lamb had a bill that I don't think came out of committee that also raised that whole issue. And I just think it would be irresponsible of us not to pursue this as far as possible so that we have as much information before us as legislators before we wade out into the whole issue of water policy, water transfer policy. You might be interested to know that just last weekend, at the NCSL conference that some of us attended, that this topic came up kind of as an aside in a meeting I was at that was attended by states all over the country. And I was surprised at how much interest there is on this issue. Many other states are grappling with this. Minnesota was one that commented specifically that day, as was Nevada, as was Arizona. I think we have some information here that once we figure out these things we're going to have some answers that some other states are going to want to have as well. In fact the College of Law, when I approached them about their interest in doing this, suggested to me that there are legitimate legal questions to pursue here, and in fact they think there is probably even an opportunity to leverage other funding to pursue this whole, broad policy area and related policy areas. So I think this may well put into our hands, as legislators, information that perhaps no one else in the country might have. Even the National Academy of Sciences is thinking about compiling, at least, what information states now have on the water transfer issue. So I think we really...we owe this to the citizens of Nebraska to make sure that we have thoroughly explored all of our options before we proceed with making policy. So, with that, I would ask you to advance the bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. The question before the body is the advancement of LB 710. Those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Voting on the advancement of the bill. Please record.

CLERK: 31 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of LB 710.

SPEAKER BARRETT: LB 710 is advanced. LB 646.