

Senator Schmit raised when he was asking how the book, the water law book that is currently held in high esteem in this state. I have in my hand here, Nebraska Water Law and Administration by Richard S. Harnsberger and Norman W. Thorson, and there is on page...on the preface a little note here. Preliminary research for this book was supported in part by the Agricultural and Water Research Fund of the University of Nebraska Foundation through the Nebraska Resources Center. I suspect that there was probably also some General Fund appropriation somewhere along the line although I can't say that given this information. But I think what that does is it does make the point that people do not concoct any kind of meaningful research out of thin air, that it does, in fact, take some financial resources behind it to accomplish it. This is an important issue. This requires the utmost in terms of examination, thorough analysis of our policy choices and let me reiterate. The purpose of this bill is not to rehash that territory that was covered in the study by 146. The purpose is to look specifically at the constitutional issues. This is really, today, in light of the Sporhase case, much more an interstate commerce clause issue even than it is a water issue. That's the purpose for the study, is to make sure that we know the answers to that, know how far, in fact, we can push the Sporhase decision. Not only will this particular study serve us well as legislators in terms of giving us information as far as what are the best policy choices; are our hands really tied or can we do a more aggressive job of protecting our groundwater resources, but I think it's not unlikely that this particular study, in fact, may be of some value around the nation, given the current level of interest in this subject and given in particular all the western states' interest in this. I urge you to advance the bill in behalf of the people of Nebraska who care about their water resources. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Schmit, please.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Well, Mr. President and members, a few years ago this Legislature embarked upon a study which became known as the Syracuse Tax Study. I opposed that tax study and the appropriation for it because I said, first of all, you're going to have it done by some people out of the state and I didn't think they would do a credible job. But, secondly, I said we would not pay any attention to the study anyway, we'd embark upon our own course of action. Sure enough, we went ahead, against my recommendation, and we appropriated \$350,000. Well the study didn't progress as fast as we thought it should