

April 20, 1989

LB 710

make some policy decisions about water and the use of water and what we're going to do ultimately with our most precious commodity and I would urge you to adopt this bill and move it on. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Dierks, please, followed by Senator Schmit.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body, Senator Schmit, you know you talked about being able to embarrass us with the results of this study. I think maybe it's awfully easy for us to become embarrassed in here. We do that many times to ourselves just by sticking our feet in our mouth, but I agree with you 110 percent about the use we made of the Syracuse Tax Study. I had misgivings about that before I ever came to this body when I heard we were going to hire an outfit from out of state to do this study for us and for that reason I think that one of the right moves in this bill is that we are hiring people from within the state to help us with this study and I have every confidence in our...in the people in our law school that they will be able to do an excellent job on that. Again, I'd like to just point out the fact that we have one of our most precious assets in this state at issue here and I believe that we need to take every effort that we can to guarantee the safety and the rightful use and the...or to guarantee against the misuse of this very valuable asset. I urge the body to advance this bill to Final Reading. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Schmit, please.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Well, Senator Scofield, and Kristensen and Dierks and all the rest of you, to the extent that this little discussion has encouraged some additional interest in water, water conservation, water use, preservation, perhaps the bill is worth more than the \$25,000 it will cost. My deepest concern is that we provide lots of rhetoric, a lot of interest. Any politician worth his salt can make a tremendous speech on the tremendous benefits of water as a resource for this state. But this Legislature has not lived up to its responsibility when it comes to protecting that resource. And if you think you're going to do it with a \$25,000 study that says, well, shall we move it out or not, it's not going to make any difference. But I want to say this. The time is going to come when you can stand in one of these tall buildings around here that we build and you look toward the rivers and the river is going to be dry