

and you're going to wish there had been something done that would have preserved some of that resource. Secondly, that unless you really face the issue of water transfers and face it unemotionally and face it honestly and tell the people the truth, not what they want to hear, but tell them the truth, the time will come when water will move unimpeded without reimbursement across state lines to other areas. And we can stand here and give all those pious speeches we want to, to a narrow audience and it's not going to reverse the flow. It's not going to change a thing. If I were the Denver Water Management Board today, as I've said before, I'd buy a piece of land in Nebraska and I'd start laying pipe and that all the screaming and all the shouting would not reverse that action. It's not going to do it and all of a sudden underground water from Nebraska will be going west and you're not going to be compensated for it. I, to the extent that this might, hopefully Sandy and Senator Lamb awaken in the people some reality, maybe it will do some good. I don't have much confidence. My deepest concern, my deepest concern is that it be an objective study, objective report, one which we can perhaps get some good out of. I hope that I have to stand up here a year from now and apologize to those introducers of the bill and say it is a good study. I would be...nothing would please me more. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Scofield, please.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Thank you, Mr. President, I would simply rise and ask you to advance the bill. Senator Schmit is right about one thing and that is that there is a need for wide, even wider spread public discussion than we've had on this issue already and that's one of the reasons why this bill is here this year not just for the purposes of a discussion though, but I don't think you can have any meaningful discussion if you don't really know what your policy options are and I am convinced from my looking at this issue that we, in fact, do not know enough yet to know what our policy choices are in Nebraska in terms of the transfer of water. I don't think there's any need for any of us to panic and say Denver is going to come get our water tomorrow, but at some point, because of the value of this resource, we're going to have to make some difficult choices in this state and I want to personally be as well prepared as possible to be able to make those choices that best serve the interest of Nebraskans and best protect our water. And so I will accept your challenge, Senator Schmit, to embarrass me on this bill in the future, and if this is the most embarrassing thing I've ever