

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Hefner, please.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I didn't vote on this in committee because I wasn't quite sure myself, so I passed. But since that time I've been doing a little more analyzing of it and talking to different people about it. A lot of the people in my district say that they just as soon not sell it at the present time. I realize that Senator Schmit and Senator Lamb said, well, we're only getting 4 percent from an investment. And this is perhaps true. But let's talk a little bit about appreciation, too. Once you sell that land and put that money in the bank or in an investment it isn't going to appreciate anymore, it's going to stay at the 300 million, or 400 million dollars, or whatever we get for the land. So you've certainly got to consider that and consider that a part of the return on investment. I don't know what we could get for this land at this time. Land values have been going up a little, but if we don't get some rain in the next week or ten days it could drop drastically. And I think we need to consider that. In analyzing this a little bit farther I find that the State of Kansas sold their school lands many years ago. And so it's gone. Certainly they received the money. I don't know exactly how much money they received for it, but it's gone. Another state, New Mexico, kept their school lands, and at the present time New Mexico is funding their higher education just about with the income off of these school lands. So I think there is some good arguments why we should keep the school lands. Senator Lamb mentioned well the way that they put it up for rent, or the way they lease it out isn't quite fair. Well, I don't know too much about that, but I think we have people on this commission or this committee that are knowledgeable on how to lease this land. So I think if Senator Lamb doesn't like that then we should change that, and I'm sure this commission or this board would be willing to listen to us and change that procedure, if it was necessary. But in talking to some of the farmers that have leased this land, they feel it's about as fair as the way they rent any of their land. So, at this time, I'm going to oppose this bill.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Hall, please.

SENATOR HALL: I would yield my time to Senator Schmit.

PRESIDENT: Okay, Senator Schmit, you're almost up anyway, but go ahead.