

good. Kind of an incentive to the rest of us. And I would just like to say that maybe the conservation district out there which Senator Rod Johnson and Senator Scotty Moore are fighting for is a good indication of why we originally started the natural resource districts, to protect the soil and water resources of the State of Nebraska. They are doing what we originally intended. Now this Legislature, and I've been a part of it, have greatly added to the responsibilities, but the original intent was to encourage the protection of the soil and water resources and the water quality of this state has today become one of the most deepest concerns of all of us. And the fact that in some instances we have someone out there now who is doing an excellent job and Senator Moore, he made a mistake also. You said it was a costly operation. It is not a costly operation. It is a very efficient operation and so I've been able to square two deals here at one time this morning, Senator. But the facts are this, whether you do it three years or five years is not a big concern to me. I think it's important that it be allowed to continue and I do not quite agree with my friend, Senator Beutler, when he says we're going to bring all under one big umbrella. Yes, we did with some exceptions, but we have made that umbrella cover many, many additional responsibilities and I will be watching with some interest to see if we're going to be willing to fund those responsibilities to the same extent that we're willing to talk about them. And so at this time I'm going to support the motion by Senator Moore and Senator Johnson not necessarily because I think it makes a lot of difference, but because I think that the districts are doing a good job and it ought not be necessary to come back every couple years and make that plea that we have made. I hope they stay out there a long time.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Schmit. We'll now proceed to Senator Rod Johnson.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, members, Senator Schmit covered many of the points that I'd like to make. I would just simply add that if there was a concern from the farmers in that district, or the directors of the Upper Big Blue to end this relationship, I think Senator Moore, or myself, or Senator Coordsen would be hearing about it. But, as has been mentioned over and over in this debate, there is good cooperation and good acceptance by the farmers in the districts included in this area to support the program. And the real heart of the matter is, as has been mentioned, whether you extend it three years or five,