

February 4, 1991 LB 137

you have to look at the relationship of the districts at hand, the farmers, and, secondly, is it going to be any more cost effective in the end for the NRD board to take over these functions. I'll bet you the dollars I've got in my pocket this morning that it will cost more when the NRD's take it over than it currently is with the conservation district, as Senator Moore has indicated, which is a very conservative, frugal group with only one full-time person and some part-time people helping out in the summer time, with the irrigation schedule in particular, that I think it works well. I prefer to see it for five years. For Senator Beutler, as he mentioned, Senator Kremer carried these bills many times. I inherited some of the extension of the dates, basically one of the first years I came in. Since that time it's progressed to Senator Moore and whoever our successors might be, I suppose they will inherit this issue, too. But there is, I think, benefits in going to five years. But, for one, I may not be here in five years, so that might be one reason. So thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Rod Johnson. Now, we'll proceed to Senator Hartnett.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I also am on, for the first year, on the Natural Resources Committee. I supported Senator Lamb's amendment to change it from five years to three years. I think the reason for that is that I think it's good to review these things, even though it takes some time and the district will probably continue. But I really think we have to look at the whole issue of who has control of the...is it the Natural Resource Committees, or do we have these small, little pockets of other people controlling it. And so I arise to oppose...to support the committee amendments, because I think it's good for the whole body to come back again and look at it, rather than extend it for a period of five years leave it at three years. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Hartnett. Is there any further discussion on the committee amendments? Seeing none, Senator Morrissey, do you wish to close?

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Yes, Mr. Speaker, just briefly. Senator Johnson and Moore, Coordsen have made their point very well that even though this is a unique system down there, it seems to be making the people of the area happy. The question is, will it continue to do so and will there be problems in the future. We