

February 14, 1991 LB 21

of water bills. So I have concurred with his decision. I would ask for the support of the body to bracket LB 21 till January 1, 1992. Thank you, Madam President.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Coordsen. Senator Johnson.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Madam President, members, last week Senator Beutler and I visited a bit on this bill. As you know, we have a difference of opinion on how to proceed with LB 21 and its funding source. And as Senator Coordsen has said, we have several bills in the Natural Resources Committee that deal with water quality and their funding sources, and we have so many different fee base systems set up, so many different levies, that one of the things that we have chosen to do in the committee is set up a subcommittee of the committee to take a look at all these funding sources and try and sort them out. That is a monumental task but it is something I think during the interim period this committee will work on very diligently, because as we proceed with water law, as I have said before, we can pass all of the policies we want in this Legislature, but unless you have got the funding sources to support those policy decisions, you really haven't accomplished anything. And one of the things that I'd like to do as chair of the committee is to take a look at all these different funding sources, try and sort them out, and put some sanity into our water law. We have got a resolution before the committee that we are going to be discussing later on this year that tries to compile all these water laws that Nebraska has. I don't know if that is the state water law policy. It is a variety of statutes that have been brought together into one resolution, but it shows that we have such an abstract approach, a piecemeal approach to the issue of water and water quality, which seems to be a growing concern, that I really think what we have got to do in this committee is really sit down and seriously look at how we are going to fund water quality projects, for the NRD's, for all of the various sources that are involved in water quality decisions. And, quite frankly, if the body wants to proceed with LB 21, I would not have a problem with that but I think, as I said, we really need to begin trying to make some sense out of our water laws and our water funding laws, and that is what I would like to do. And I am a supporter of LB 21, I am not trying to slow it down or stop it. I just simply want to make sure, as we proceed with these water bills that are going to come to the floor this year and next year, that we have some idea of where we are at, as far as funding for all these various projects. So that's the