

SENATOR NELSON: Senator Schmit, would you please respond to a couple of questions?

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Schmit.

SENATOR NELSON: I need a little help. I don't think my memory has failed me but maybe it has. The Water Management Board, a few years ago or last year or a year or so ago, supported the 1902 Bureau of Reclamation Act and which that is...it was 160 acres, now it's about 920 acres per family which subsidizes some very, very questionable water projects in California, Nevada, and so on, at about \$3.75 a foot, where it costs about \$70 direct competition to Nebraska farmers. Am I correct? I think I had this over to the conference room. Is this the same...I felt that their knowledge was very, very limited in actually what they were supporting. Is this the same board?

SENATOR SCHMIT: I really am not familiar with that detail, Senator. I don't believe that I was present at that time but you might very well have had that same board (interruption).

SENATOR NELSON: The comment from one of the members was, well, Senator Nelson, the people in Nevada are probably as entitled to water as you are and so on, but I get pretty itchy when my tax dollars support a project that's on land that is almost as poor as putting it on this floor right here. And I felt that they simply had not done their in depth study and if you are familiar with that act, I think it's long been past its usefulness and very, very expensive subsidized crops that, again, are plentiful and we are giving them that extremely cheap water in competition to the Nebraska farmers.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Nelson. Is there anyone wishing to discuss the bill? Seeing no one, Senator Schmit, do you wish to close?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Very brief. Ladies and gentlemen, Mr. President, I would hope you would advance the bill. If you have questions in the period of time between now and it comes up on Select File, I would be glad to meet with you. I do not like to dissolve the board. I hesitated before introducing the bill. But I really do believe that there comes a time when we have to be realistic about some of these issues. I would hope that there would be a multitude of projects that would be proposed and on the drawing board out there that the Water Management