

committee.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Elmer. We'll now go to Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I guess it's really hard for me to understand what the argument is all about. You know when I hear the people that oppose this, and by the way, I'm rising to vigorously support pulling this out of committee. When I hear the people on this floor opposing this, it just makes me wonder what their real purpose is. You know it's not only just the words they say, but the intensity in their voices. You know, when we get right down to it, agriculture is the number one industry in the state. Irrigation is a big part of that industry. Irrigation has brought Nebraska forward in the past years. It's a very important part of this state. Now nobody in his right mind is going to try to deprive any city, any person of all the water that they need for domestic purposes, for manufacturing purposes, for whatever good useful purpose. I've stated that time after time in the Natural Resources Committee. And by the way, I've served on that committee and it's predecessor for all the 15 years that I've been here. Nobody and never have I ever said to anybody that we're going to deprive a city of safe drinking water. That is not the issue. That is a straw issue that just defies my imagination. I can't understand why anybody would grasp that. You know we just finished a week here of Lincoln loves the Legislature and we know, we appreciate Lincoln and I know Lincoln appreciates the Legislature, but part of the reason that Lincoln appreciates the Legislature is because of the money that is brought in to this town and a lot of that money comes from agriculture, not just through the Legislature, but Omaha and Lincoln are directly or indirectly for the most part dependent on agriculture. And when I hear people talk about we need more water for instream flow, certainly we need some water for instream flow and we do have legislation which provides for instream flow. In fact, in my legislative district in Long Pine Creek, the Game Commission did obtain instream flow in there and that's a first in the state, right. But it is happening. And there is legislation currently on the books which is designed to protect the quantity and quality of water for everybody and the NRDs, as you know, have taken the lead. We have NRDs out in the southwestern part of the state where they do have problems with quality and quantity of water and have established regulations to deal with that. So to hear the people on the floor of this