

has 1,549 people, and Banner County, to the south of us, has 852 people. We have the North Platte River. That is the difference between those three counties and the irrigation system. Because of our system, hydroelectric power is supplied to many towns, rural cooperatives, and industries. The project reservoirs have been effective in reducing damage to property and the loss of life from floods. Recreation includes camping, picnic grounds, swimming, boating, fishing, and an extensive habitat has been created for wildlife. Nebraska and the surrounding area has suffered a severe drought the last few years, and the amount of water in this system has been reduced greatly, but because of our system, though, all the users have been satisfied. Irrigation is adequate.

**SPEAKER BAACK:** One minute.

**SENATOR HILLMAN:** Neither fish nor fowl has been lost due to lack of water. The plan is credible and the system does work. I urge anyone looking at a water plan in Nebraska to look at the total picture and support the passage of LR 27.

**SPEAKER BAACK:** Thank you, Senator Hillman. Senator Nelson.

**SENATOR NELSON:** Madam...Mr. Speaker, considerable discussion has been brought on the Platte River and the well field at Grand Island. I have mixed emotions on this resolution but I am going to support it. I have real problems in some of the discussion that all of a sudden everyone is so concerned about the river and the nitrates and the water, and how much, and what the flow is. I received a call, when I got home a couple of weeks ago, almost threatening me to no end if I even supported this bill, but my question was, I think that the people in outstate Nebraska have a good knowledge of the river and so on. I might want to help you out on the discussion of the well field. The well field is south of Grand Island but those wells are 130 feet deep, and, to my knowledge, now Grand Island gets all of their water from the well field because of the nitrate content of the wells that are within Grand Island or within a mile or two around. But we do have to maintain that flow to...well, to do away with the nitrates and the chemicals and so on in the water, and a minimum flow. Senator Hefner is also correct. A million cubic feet of water comes in and I had heard seven million, maybe it is up to ten, and it is where the Loup joins the Platte. There is a tremendous amount of water that does flow out of the state, but we still have to support the dams and that