

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Elmer.

SENATOR ELMER: How much time, Mr. Speaker?

SPEAKER BAACK: About three minutes.

SENATOR ELMER: That's plenty. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Senator Schmit. I was privileged to attend a joint meeting with the Select Water Committee from Wyoming and the Natural Resources Committee from Nebraska. It was a very instructional meeting. It seems as though that the Wyoming legislators and the Nebraska legislators are very willing to negotiate the problem. However, some of the activities that have been taking place with the attorneys in Wyoming, Nebraska and Washington, the Wyoming Water Board was not even aware that Nebraska had made an offer to settle the problem between Wyoming and Nebraska and they had not even been informed of the offer. And the offer that was made was exactly what they wanted as far as the legislators were concerned. It was the attorneys that were just carrying this on and it seems as though to perpetuate their own job or something like that. And I think that this is a wise way to tell the legal community that we need to settle this, we can settle it and we don't have to have you to do it. I would support Senator Schmit's amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: I do have some other speakers. Senator Moore...or Senator Smith, did you wish to address the Schmit amendment? Senator Smith, did you wish to address the Schmit amendment? We're on the Schmit amendment to the committee amendments. Senator Moore.

SENATOR MOORE: Mr. Speaker and members, I rise quite hesitantly to oppose Senator Schmit's amendment, not that I do not necessarily agree with what he is saying, I just disagree with his method of getting the point across. Now you heard...I, like the other senators, I do not want to spend this money, this type of money on litigation for this water issue, for the Deer Creek lawsuit. We're talking millions of dollars literally. I think Spencer Morrissey hit the money on the head with the Wyoming folks that they're going to say that we'll spend whatever it takes to beat you. I mean, they have said that repeatedly. They will spend \$5 million a year, more than double what we have spent. That's what they have, I believe, they have appropriated this year if my memory serves me correctly. And so, I mean, the statement could be made, well, if this is a