

January 28, 1992 LB 948

Mike Jess might do with these permits. Obviously he is holding hearings at this time and is trying to get information from the farmers and from the people in that area. My guess is that after all this is said and done that hopefully those permits will be issued and the best of all worlds would be that Mr. Jess would issue these permits before this bill even passes, but we can't bank upon that. We have to recognize that maybe a lengthy process that Mr. Jess is going to have to go through, it may go beyond this growing season and this bill basically provides some stability to the farmers for a, as Senator Schrock, using his words, a window of opportunity for two years until Mr. Jess makes that ultimate decision to give them some stability of their operation. So I strongly support the bill and hope that this bill will be advanced today and we can get it passed and give some direction to a number of farmers in central Nebraska that are questioning whether they are going to have water rights for this coming year.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Johnson. I'll now recognize Senator Cudaback followed Senators, Lamb, Morrissey and Horgan. Senator Cudaback.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Madam President and members, I guess we have to ask ourselves what happens if 948 passes? Actually nothing happens. The only thing that happens is that what is currently being done will continually be done. We can't blame somebody for something that they have no control over. The people that it will affect, they're the ones that will be punished. We have about 700 people there that, what would happen if your wages or our wages would be cut in half or even more? It would be devastating and these people actually had no control over what would be taking place. It's kind of like somebody coming home from the office, had a bad day in the office and walking over to his neighbor and slapping his neighbor around for his bad day at the office. It doesn't make any sense and the same thing happens here. The people that will be punished had no control in the matter. So I would just ask your support for 948 and think of the consequences. No more water will be asked for. No more water will be used than has been used in the past and so we're not doing any harm here. It's for the betterment of the people and for betterment of this part of Nebraska. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Thank you, Madam Chair and members. I rise to