

felt that we needed this appropriation, or this bill passed this year, because we...there were some significant groundwater or surface water shortages out there, where the City of Lincoln, or the City of Grand Island, or the City of Omaha water supplies were going to be jeopardized this coming year, I wouldn't hesitate to do what I could to help him. But that really is not the case. Not arguing that, as Senator Beutler has indicated, that major cities in this state, principally Omaha and Lincoln, have made some substantial investments, but I don't think those investments will be lost simply because 306 does not pass this year. And I'm more than willing to work with people who really want to discuss this issue in greater detail. And I pledge to all the body that this would be a top priority of interim studies for the session or the interim studies, period. So, with that, I will offer the bracket motion and we'll see where it goes from here. If it fails, obviously we'll continue the debate on 306.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Johnson. I'll now recognize senators wishing to speak to the bracket motion. Senator Lindsay.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Thank you, Madam President, members. I rise, I guess, to pick a little bit up where Senator Crosby led, and where Senator Lynch led, and Senator Beutler has led, and that is that we can study, and we can study, and we can study, but it's not going to change the fact that it's a problem that has to be addressed. I was talking a little bit with general counsel from MUD, who's out in the lobby, and he suggested that when he got here in 1980, we were talking about the same thing. I heard somebody just before lunch suggest, I think somewhat facetiously but maybe not, that we should handle it the same way we handled it back in the fifties, that was we should do a study. We can do studies all we want, we'll be back here next year suggesting we do a study in the mean time. It's just not going to work. If we want, we have a problem that has to be confronted. We have a problem that we have to make a decision on. And, yes, I understand, I understand the importance of water to irrigators. I understand the fears of irrigators of having their water shut off. I don't think that's what this bill does. I don't think that's a fear, that if we look at what the bill does, that it's something that is a realistic possibility, or realistic probability, I should say. The...what we have to look at is that there is a problem, an ongoing problem, confronted by municipalities. And I again...I guess I