

would also point out that a good chunk of the population lives in the urban areas. That population has as much of an interest in having water, a secure water supply, as do the irrigators. And I think that's what the bill tries to do is to strike a balance, tries to attempt to compromise. I think the...the...the points that Senator Beutler has compromised on with Senators Lamb and Senator Wickersham have done that. They have assured of a continued water supply for the irrigators. I oppose the bracket motion. I think to...the bracket motion, while not intended I'm sure by Senator Johnson, as simply, in effect, to obstruct the passage of the bill, I think there may be those who would use it for that purpose. I think the...the purpose, as enunciated by Senator Moore, for the bracket is simply to give us more time to look at it. But I guess I'd like to look at the other side of what Senator Johnson has had to say, and that is that when they did the interim study, when Natural Resources Committee did their interim study last year there was no public input. And why are we going to have the public input this year? It's something that we've been talking about for years and there's never been a sense of urgency that would...that would require anybody to get too involved in it. I think we can have another interim study. And I suspect that we'll still have two or three senators at the hearings, and two or three people at the hearings. We all know, all of us who have been involved in interim studies, know exactly how much public input we get there. And it's not a great deal, unless it's an extremely controversial issue. I don't think this one is going to generate that much in the way of public interest, it simply has not in the past. I don't think the urgency has changed, it's just as urgent as it has been last year. Finally, I'd like to touch on one final thing, that this is not an eleventh hour sort of bill, it's kind of implied that...I think there's an editorial passed around from one of the newspapers that...suggesting that this bill is being pushed through this session. In actuality what's happened was the bill was introduced last session, came out of committee, as Senator Crosby pointed out, in February of '91. It's been sitting on General File for over a year. Prior to that we've been discussing it. There's been other bills introduced. This is an issue that has gone on and on. It's not an issue that reared its head this year and is something that is trying to be stuck on the fast track. The amendments that have come up are not again...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.