

SENATOR LINDSAY: ...eleventh hour sort of amendments. They are amendments that Senator Beutler has been working on for months with different interested parties. This is not something that just popped up this afternoon. See, you notice there were several drafts of the amendment where Senator Beutler has tried to take care of the concerns of all those several parties. I suggest that a bracket motion, that to vote in favor of the bracket motion is rather just an obstruction of the bill, that supporting the bracket motion is simply putting off something that ultimately we will have to decide in future anyway. I would oppose the bracket motion.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Lindsay. Senator Withem. Senator Withem. Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Thank you, Madam Chairman. Senator Beutler explained that the Cities of Omaha and Lincoln are about to spend a quarter of a billion dollars on their water systems, and they want, of course, to be assured of an adequate supply of quality water, and that's a very legitimate concern. It's interesting, of course, that I have argued on this floor many times, without much success, Senator Beutler, with my rural friends principally, that the day will come when the urban legislators will seek to impose upon agriculture a tax to pay for any kind of a water system that is polluted by agriculture. I think we've taken the first steps in that direction with the fertilizer tax, that's one step in that direction. And I (inaudible) on my rural colleagues showing some concern now. I'm going to shock some of you a little bit because I don't think there's anything in the Constitution, nor in statute that will ever allow a farmer to prevail over a municipal water user, we know that. The concerns that have been expressed are, of course, generally assumed to be correct. The facts are, ladies and gentlemen, that the rural legislators on this floor are outvoted. If the urban legislators want this bill, they've got the votes to do it. Now the question will then arise and has already arisen with the river cities west of Omaha and Lincoln, where do we come out in the appropriation process? I don't think they have a thing to worry about. You're going to be outvoted on that also. If the time comes that Hastings, or Kearney, or Grand Island, or Lexington has to be dried up and sent north into the Sandhills for water so that Omaha and Lincoln can have water, it's going to happen. That's going to happen. That's going to happen. I was taught that 20 years ago