

irrigators within a mile were shut off. It's my understanding from conversation with a irrigation company owner in my district, that there are areas in Kansas that have shut off all irrigation, instream or wells, in their river basin because of this. I've indicated to you before a concern of mine over the language of...which is taken from the constitution relative to streams, natural streams in Nebraska. We really don't have any definition of that other than that definition that exists for water courses and a water course is simply any depression that carries water any time during the period of a year. I think that, while I commend Senator Beutler's intent with doing this because of the...of the necessity to ensure a stable and growing water supply for our population centers in Nebraska...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR COORDSEN: ...and their increased water use per person, that a few months is not going to change this issue totally. The water will still be there. The stream flow won't be changed between now and January 1 and I think we might better address some of those concerns that we have been brought face to face with by Senator Beutler's bill and it did that. It's caused us to make a reckoning on the floor of this body as to what type of mechanism we want to use in the State of Nebraska into the future with regard to municipal water systems, to irrigation, other water uses, water impoundment structures, which there are literally hundreds and hundreds of thousands of in the State of Nebraska, and we've all flown over at a low enough altitude to have seen those. How does all of this fit together and how does it impact our water supply, both in...

PRESIDENT MOUL: Time.

SENATOR COORDSEN: ...municipal wells and in the other uses in the State of Nebraska? So, with that, I would encourage the support of the bracket motion. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Coordsen. Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Madam Chairman and members, I recall the consternation that arose the first time that I proposed that we put a price on water. The rural and urban legislators, rural and urban dwellers, newspapers across the state, virtually to the last individual castigated me and criticized my suggestion. Friend of mine once told me, you should never give away anything