

because not even an old newspaper, which has as little value as anything, because once you give it away it loses its value and it's not appreciated. Those of us who have lived a number a years and raised families can understand that. My concern has always been the fact that in the State of Nebraska water was so plentiful, so abundant and so cheap that we never really valued it very highly. We didn't have the ability to understand that in some parts of the United States and many parts of the world a glass of fresh, wholesome, pure water is unobtainable. Therefore, we did not put the proper protections in place to safeguard that water supply. For those who say that we have not done well, I think that we have made significant progress in that area in the last few years. We, when I first came here, water quantity was the issue. Then it shifted to water quality and now we are back, virtue of Senator Beutler's bill, to water quantity again. Point that I want to make is this an that is that not until the issue becomes one of rationing or not enough water to go around or not enough water for all reasons and uses will Nebraskans face the necessity of determining the matter of priorities. The concern that we have today, as expressed by Senator Beutler, how do you guarantee a supply of water for a new quarter of a billion dollar well field? Well, ladies and gentlemen, that's about the value of the fertilizer that Nebraska farmers put on their farms each year and so we have an interest also. I think that along with the concerns that Senator Beutler has expressed needs to be addressed the issue of how do you protect that aquifer from contamination and who shall have the responsibility. At the present time, the natural resources are in that dominant role and I feel they should remain there. I think that we are going to see extended emphasis placed upon the utilization of the water as a resource based upon its, not just it's quantity, but it's quality and that's going to have to be protected. I would suggest that I know that Senator Beutler does not want the bill to languish another year. I, very frankly, will support the bracket motion, but I understand where he's coming from because this body year, after year refuses to look beyond the borders. We refuse to look beyond the border of our own farm, our own county and our own state and it is not going to be until the City of Denver buys a well field in the Ogallala Aquifer and starts to pipe the water west that we're going to come charging out here 49 abreast and say something's got to be done. It was never intended and we should have thought of this and it will be too late because there's no provision in statute or constitution today to deny that. We need to do that. It needs to be done as a part of a