

have been hesitant to speak on this issue because it wasn't too many days ago I was standing up here asking for the legislative body to grant a temporary water permit for 32,000 acres in south central Nebraska. It would certainly be a travesty if they would not get water because of actions by the Legislature. I think...I think Mike Jess is going to grant those permits, but the point of the matter is I felt a lot of concern out there from my urban friends about the problem we were having in our area of the state. And I don't know that we have a problem in Lincoln or Omaha or Fremont or Columbus or where, but I have a concern also that the municipalities have water and I don't want them not to be able to wash their cars or water their lawns. I think there's plenty of water out there for everybody. I think we should keep in mind some historical things though. We should keep in mind that in the 1930s the Platte River at Grand Island, on three different occasions, was dry, no stream flow for 100 days at a time, in excess of 100 days. I think the longest time was a hundred and some eighty days there was no water in the river, just flat dry. Now I hope we don't have to go through a drought like we in the 1930s and you must remember, that was before the days of Kingsley Dam. I'm not sure what this bill does; I'm not sure what it doesn't do. But I might ask Senator Beutler one question, if he'd be willing to respond.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Yes, sir.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Senator Beutler, if it's necessary to shut down some irrigation wells for an instream flow for your well field, is it...is it...those farmers that have to do that, will they be compensated for that...for the damage done?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Well, first of all, with the change in the dates, Senator Schrock, that is the cities...with this amendment they will not get an appropriation...one dated in 1992. Okay? So there is no way that the city can shut down any senior appropriator without giving compensation. Under the preference system, they must give compensation.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. I'd just like to make one more comment. We have one million acre feet of water that flow into this state, disregarding the Missouri River, and we have nine million acre feet of water that leave this state and it looks to me like, with all the environmental concerns and all the concerns of the wildlife, we have stopped constructing storage projects and maybe in the future something should be