

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Thank you, Madam President and members. This was brought to me, in fact, about a week ago. It's somewhat off the subject of actually the intent of 306, but deals with water districts or irrigation districts. It changes simply a date. Your irrigation district boards have an assessor who goes out and does an assessment of the district and periodically then has to make the changes and the necessary water rights within a district from year to year. What this amendment does, it backs up the date from March 1 to January 1 in order to allow the assessor to start earlier, about six weeks to two months earlier, in the paperwork necessary to get the water rights in line to submit to the Department of Water Resources for their approval. That's all the amendment does. It has nothing, basically, to do with municipal or domestic use. It only deals with irrigation districts. This was a convenient bill to use as a vehicle to address this problem that was brought to me by a manager of one of the irrigation districts in Nebraska. He is here today and if you have any questions about that he's back of the Rotunda, but, quite frankly, all we do in this amendment is say the assessor shall, between, and changing the date "March 1" to "January 1" and the third Monday of May in each year assess all the property and water rights and so forth, so it just simply gives irrigation districts an additional six weeks to two months to do the work that they are asked to do to make sure water rights are in line. So, with that, I'd move the amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK PRESIDING

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Rod Johnson. To speak on the Rod Johnson amendment, Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. Speaker, I've not seen the amendment but I'd like to have a ruling as to whether the amendment is germane or not. I would challenge its germaneness.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Schmit. Senator Rod Johnson, would you like to comment while we're checking this out?

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Not really.

(LAUGHTER)

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Actually, as I understand it, this...we're dealing with the same statute chapter number. I don't know if