

also expect that there will be changes in the constitution and that those changes will probably drastically alter the existing situation. I don't think any of us understand the impact of much of the federal legislation that has been enacted into law as it impacts upon wetlands, as it impacts upon the rights of even cities to use water if it should have an adverse effect upon wildlife and endangered species. We've started down a road in this area which has no road signs and which has no distance signs and which has no terminal points. It seems that whatever someone wishes to do somehow or other becomes an accomplished fact. I think sometimes that I speak to the public and they talk about the Legislature and what are you going to do on water. Well, I have yet to find the first instance of a city being denied water. I have yet to find the first instance of an industry being denied water and very few farmers, if they have underground water or surface water, are denied the right to that water. If you recall the fights of the decades ago, transbasin diversion were fighting words, particularly if you live in the Platte or the Loup Valleys and someone proposed moving water out of those values. Today, we don't seem to be quite so upset about that, but the trend has been established and I just would suggest, and I know that Senator Beutler is sincere and I know that he really means he didn't ever intentionally set out to do anyone harm and I'm sure none of us did. I don't think that I have ever served with anyone who intentionally tried to harm someone. Unfortunately, sometimes that does occur and most of the time we don't even recognize it and it is of deep concern to me that the passage of this bill, as amended, could lower the valuation of farm land and businesses in much of Nebraska with no corresponding benefit to the cities that are concerned. I would hope that the bill would not advance today, but I would hope that and I know that Senator Beutler will continue his interest and whoever is here in succeeding years will have an opportunity to try to place a value upon our most valuable resource and to put it in proper perspective. I, once again, want to caution you that the issue should not be rural versus urban in Nebraska over water. It should be Nebraskans versus non-Nebraskans. Just as today this state is concerned with becoming a dumping ground for low-level...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ..waste and some persons are concerned that we are becoming a dumping ground for other state's garbage, I am much more concerned that we will...that this state will be