

live around it and are directly impacted by the lake. These lakes are formed as direct parts of the canal system and are fairly even. They don't go up or down much, make very desirable recreation sites. There's another one at Jeffrey Lake in Lincoln County, a large residential community around that lake, some homes worth two or three hundred thousand dollars permanently re...with permanent residents. There's Johnson Lake that's also a very good recreation lake north of Elwood. There's Elwood Lake, which is not because it's a surge tank and goes up and down 30 or 40 feet a year, while the others do not. But with all these people dependent on how this system is operated in these other counties, it's obvious that there's been some movement towards some influence on the Tri-County Board. Now there's also been some confusion on talking about Tri-County and Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District. Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District, of course, is the formal name of the entity that irrigates the chartered acre areas. The chartered acre areas are from when...where the representation comes, but the dams and canal systems are outside of that chartered area so the amendment is to allow some representation of the irrigation interests and those people that are affected directly by seepage from the canal systems, bridges back and forth across the canal systems that are outside that chartered area and, as time has passed, those influences' impacts have grown and grown. And recognizing that the recreational interests, the wildlife interests and the irrigation interests all must work more closely together since they have been emphasized much more greatly as those interests have grown, does seem to indicate the propriety of being able to have the representation on the board for those other interests. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Elmer. Senator Robak.

SENATOR ROBAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the body. I rise to oppose to suspend the rules. It's not germane to the bill and I don't think we should suspend the rules for this bill. Senator Bernard-Stevens wants equal representation and he speaks about one county that isn't represented on this particular board, although just last night he objected to another bill that would have helped representation on another board. It would help equal representation, but it would not have mandated it. It would have just helped it. So I don't think it's the proper thing to do and I think the correct way to address this situation for equal representation would to have an