

April 6, 1995

LB 871

Section 4, excuse me. In Section 4 of the committee amendment,...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR ELMER: ...we add one criteria of power to the natural resource districts of our state. They may, not shall, they may, if they deem necessary, meter water wells to find if...for data gathering purposes only. And this is intended to let the NRDs discover how much water is actually being used to supplement our case in the imminent suit between Nebraska and Kansas so that we can have accurate figures. It has the E clause so that that could be started as soon as the bill is signed by the Governor. I'm going to run out of time so I'll push my button again. Okay. And when I speak again I'll address then the instream flow part of this that...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Time. Senator Elmer, your light is next.

SENATOR ELMER: Okay.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: You may continue.

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you very much. So Section 4 should be noncontroversial, saying that the NRDs may require meters to be placed on any water wells for the purpose of acquiring water use data. Section...Section 3 of the bill...no, Section...yeah, Section 2 of the bill, excuse me,...Section 3 of the bill, okay...of the amendment addresses a question relative to appropriations of surface water. Now, we are in the process of formulating and molding an integrated water management plan that recognizes that ground water use and surface water use do influence each other, sometimes beneficially, sometimes adversely. This bill will be before us in the Legislature in whatever form we can best put together to address the majority of our Nebraskans' water users concerns. And it seems only logical, in light of some very large appropriation requests that have been made for instream flow or for out of stream flow, it doesn't matter, on the Platte River in Nebraska, it seems only logical, that if we are going to manage all of our water resources as a single unit, taking into account the availability of both surface water and ground water, that the requests for these appropriations, which are quite large, should be held in abeyance or pending in a pending status until those mechanisms are in place so that the total water regime or resource can be