

me move to the other three parts of the committee amendment. And the next part I'm taking up is actually Senator Dierks' bill, but he's caught up in a radio interview at the moment. So with his permission, I want to relate to you his part of the committee amendment which actually is a short couple of lines on page 2, down around lines 24 and 25 of the committee amendment. And, basically, he's been working with the folks who have been dealing with aquaculture and those folks, obviously, are concerned about their water sources and supplies, since a considerable amount of water is used by them. And the question arose as to whether their particular use, with respect to the preference system, was a domestic use, or an agricultural use, or a commercial use, and depending on which category you used, of course, the rights would differ. The highest and the highest use, of course, being domestic use, agriculture coming second, and commercial and industrial coming third under our traditional structure. So, basically, what Senator Dierks' bill does is to say that agricultural purposes, under the definition of the agricultural preference, shall include aquaculture. So aquaculture is treated the same as all other agricultural uses and takes second place in the preference system. The third part of the committee amendment is actually on page 1 of the committee amendment and is a little bit complicated in its structure, but let me tell you at the beginning that it's been universally agreed to by all of the parties interested in water, mainly because it has the overall effect of conserving water and decreasing the amount of water it takes to service municipal well fields. This particular amendment plays off of 301, which was passed a couple of years ago, which you may recall dealt with municipal well fields and the right of municipal well fields to secure a surface water right, a river water right for the purpose of recharging their fields. Well, what happened was we discovered that some of the municipal wells in a particular well field are extremely efficient, being, by and large, the very newest models, and other wells in the field were extremely inefficient. However, as it would, obviously, turn out, those that are most inefficient have the highest priority dates. And so in order to get the requisite amount of water, it became necessary for the municipalities to ask for what is actually an extraordinary amount of water out of a river in order to get the water that they need. But it was discovered that if you switched around priority dates and allowed them to have their most efficient wells be their highest priority, that the result of that was good for everybody in the sense that not so much water had to be taken out of the river in order to supply their