

how the committee amendments a little bit fit into the bill and then turn it over to Senator Wickersham who can explain the bill to you, and, in explaining the bill, fit in the committee amendments. I think that's the most logical way to help you reach an understanding of what this bill does. Let me say, by way of preference first of all, that the committee amendments...this bill is loaded with procedures. It is basically a procedural type of bill in terms of its details and the committee amendments, none of them, in and of themselves, are all that significant. They deal primarily with notice requirements, adding a couple notice requirements in the outline of procedures here, making sure that current laws are followed with regard to the adjudication of water rights, with respect to certain transfers that are allowed under the bill and doing a number of clarifications, I think all of which are agreeable to Senator Wickersham. Basically, what Senator Wickersham has done, in a very thoughtful manner I think, is to deal with the overall problem of how irrigation districts, reclamation districts, public power districts, all these districts out there that use surface water to irrigate a certain various amounts of land within their districts. It deals with how they transfer that land, that is how they deal with the question of whether the water is being beneficially used and if it is being beneficially used, how do you transfer it, under what conditions, that kind of problem which has more generally been a matter dealt with at the state level. What Senator Wickersham is doing to oversimplify somewhat is to bring that down to the district level and allow the district, working with the consent of the landowners, to go ahead and make some of these transfers that were more cumbersome, that are more cumbersome under our current law and, in short, return to, in some measure, power to the local irrigation districts to deal with their own water rights and their own transfers of water rights. However, at the same time that this whole thing has facilitated protective language, he has left protective language in the bill which ensures that, in a very fundamental sense, no irrigation district is going to get any more water out of this process than what they have a right to under their appropriation. So the water alloca...the water allocation that are the aggregate water use within a district it says shall not exceed the aggregate water appropriation held by the district. So that outside boundary is still there protecting the equity of other appropriators in the appropriation system. And, furthermore, it retains the beneficial use language so that we don't go transferring water rights in ways that are not beneficially