

March 13, 1996

LB 108

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Elmer, will you yield for a question from Senator Dierks?

SENATOR DIERKS: Senator Elmer, what's the name of your natural resource district?

SENATOR ELMER: Middle Republican.

SENATOR DIERKS: Are they doing a good job?

SENATOR ELMER: Yes, sir.

SENATOR DIERKS: Can you explain to us a little bit more about the current restrictions on ground water pumping in the Upper Republican?

SENATOR ELMER: In the Upper Republican? The restrictions on ground water now are thus, within the Upper Republican NRD the water users are restricted to approximately 12 inches of water pumping per acre per year, averaged over a 5-year period.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you. This control area that they're in was actually set up by the NRD, right?

SENATOR ELMER: Yes, it was.

SENATOR DIERKS: Would you say that the restrictions and controls that they have in place are working?

SENATOR ELMER: It is reducing the rate of decline of the aquifer.

SENATOR DIERKS: But it's serving the purpose for which it was intended?

SENATOR ELMER: To the extent that it's reducing the rate of decline, yes.

SENATOR DIERKS: Okay. I guess my question then is, what's the problem with the current ground water management law?

SENATOR ELMER: The current problem is that if a surface water user is impacted by ground water use, the NRD has no authority