

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...a (inaudible) and not an abusive relationship. It has worked well for us.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Schrock, on the Dierks amendment.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I passed out two maps this morning and I want to give some credit to the Department of Roads for making the map on the irrigation districts available to us this morning. I certainly didn't realize that there's 56 irrigation districts in the state of Nebraska and I thought it was a rather interesting map. They did reduce that for me and make copies of that map and I thought you would find it interesting. Also, I've passed out a map that shows what the ground water levels have done in the state of Nebraska prior to development of irrigation in this state. There's three areas in the state that have a rather large decline and, well, large might be defined differently by some other people; but the Box Butte County, which I'm not real familiar with, the Upper Republican which has taken control of their water decline problems and put controls on and the area of the state under the Big Blue NRD. I would tell you that the years, 1989 through 1992, were considered drought years by the hydrologist in the state and so some declines did take place since then; 1993 was a rather moderate year and 1994-1995 have been wetter years and so further declines have not taken place since this map was printed. I think if you would look at both maps, you would find out that declines have taken place where there is very little surface water irrigation. Where there is surface water irrigation, the ground water table is stable or, in some cases, has risen. So, I thought you'd find it interesting. Those of you who do not want to keep your maps, I would appreciate it if you would lay them on one of the side tables and I'd pick them up because, in my area of the state, it's always nice to have maps like this and school children like them, so I would pick them up if you're not going to keep the map.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Elmer.

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, we are talking about some things here that are very interesting. Our NRDs and our Department of Water Resources have had a good working relationship. I wonder if I might engage with Senator