

some questions, and I'm not sure who all to ask, but I guess I could ask Senator Beutler a question. Some of these I already know the answers to, but I kind of want to make some inquiry.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Senator Beutler, the compacts we have now between states, with Kansas and Nebraska, it's not between irrigation districts or NRDs or whatever, right?

SENATOR BEUTLER: No, it's between the state governments.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Just states.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Right.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: All right, thank you. The other one I have is on surface water rights. First in right, first in time, is that correct?

SENATOR BEUTLER: That's right.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: First in time, first in right. Are streams overappropriated for water rights? And, if so, how do they handle that?

SENATOR BEUTLER: There certainly are a whole number of streams in the state that are overappropriated. If they're already totally appropriated, there are no additional appropriations.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Is there any general principle that they follow, that is if it's overappropriated and we have a shortage of water do all users suffer proportionately, or do first in right, first in...first in time, first in right prevail?

SENATOR BEUTLER: First in time, first in right would prevail, so that the last one to get their right would be the first one to be shut off,...

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: All right.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...and they would be shut off entirely, although that's...I'm probably not...I'm probably oversimplifying the system, in a sense...in the sense that I