

state is different. It's so much different from one side to the other. I've got water up in my area that a lot of people wish they had. I wish we could have transfer of basin water across this state. But I need to tell you about the water table in one of my areas, it's...and how many wells that they can't use anymore. There's about at least ten wells that I know of that they've been in operation for ten years or more, and they just have to shut them off because the water table is so high. I guess I need to ask Senator Beutler a question.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Senator Beutler, would you yield to a question?

SENATOR JONES: I've got these well irrigators, ground well irrigators up there that the water table has "rised" so high with surface water, that is just in reverse from what our bill's talking about. Is there anything in the bill that would solve a conflict like that, I guess is my concern, too?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator, I guess I'm not...I'd need more detail on what the conflict is. You mean...why don't...can you describe it in more detail?

SENATOR JONES: Yes, there's farmers that...

SENATOR BEUTLER: These are all situations within your NRD, so that it would be handled totally by your NRD. The Department of Water Resources wouldn't have anything to do with it, right?

SENATOR JONES: Well, it could be because right now southwest of Ainsworth, there's a lot of pivots down in them big valleys down there, and them valleys are all filling up with water. And the water table has moved so high that somebody tried to cut it open to let it run down to Calamus, to get it out of there, because they can't even farm on them pivots anymore that they've been a farming for ten years on. So it's actually surface water bothering ground water irrigators in that area.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Well, the surface water is rising for what reason?

SENATOR JONES: They haven't got that all figured out yet, but I think it's coming from the Merritt Dam and it takes about 15 or 20 years to stabilize when it comes below that, because it