

SENATOR BEUTLER: Well, they've...I don't have any inside information, Senator, so I'm just giving you my impression. My impression was they intended to vote last meeting, but, as you know, the issue exploded on the scene and they were presented at their meeting with a number of people who were opposed to it and who testified before them in opposition to it. I think they had a hundred and some people there which was unheard of for a Game and Parks meeting. And they thought it appropriate, in light of opposition that was heretofore unknown to them, to further consider the matter and so it was put off. I don't know if it was put off definitely or till the next meeting, I'm not sure about that. I think that they're in a position where they have to take it up again and decide one way or another. How long they'll wait to do that, I have no idea.

SENATOR KLEIN: Have they ever given you a justifiable reason for the big money waste last year, the almost \$700,000 in taxpayer funds that were wasted over in-stream flow issues?

SENATOR BEUTLER: What waste are you referring to, Senator?

SENATOR KLEIN: Well, the Game and Parks put up about \$300,000, all the irrigation districts, the NRDs in this state spent over 400,000 in litigation over in-stream flow issues. I just wondered if they ever gave a plausible reason for that. I never did see one.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Well, I suppose it all depends on your perspective, Senator. Under the law they have a right to apply for an in-stream flow. The expense was in part the documentation necessary to prove their case under the in-stream flow law. I don't know if that's an expenditure that's objectionable to you. The rest of the expenditure evolved because the irrigators objected to the...to the application. And so I don't know who you blame the expenditures on in that...in that case. One can choose one's focus.

SENATOR KLEIN: Well, I guess to me common sense would have said they should have gotten together and tried to negotiate. But after I've witnessed the way they negotiated the last month and a half on this issue, I can see why it never happened. But...but to...that just flies in the face of everything that we stand for here to have two governmental agencies in the state spending money on that type of thing. That's the reason I