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FLOOR DEBATE

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Valley in General Funds, conceivably, and in fact, if this session plays out the way I think it's going to play out, you're going to ask for a couple of million dollars just for the Republican Valley meters. But it's not just the Republican Valley. In the future, the matter of the Platte Valley will have to be resolved, which, as you're more aware than I am, may well involve the metering of large numbers of additional ground water meters. And so the question comes up, is that going to be a local matter handled by the NRDs and the private people who benefit from the management, as in the Upper Republican, or is this, what we're doing today,...

SPEAKER BROMM: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: .. going to start to be a precedent for larger state involvement in the solution to these matters? And I return the rest of your time to you.

SENATOR SCHROCK: (Microphone malfunction)...concern is that they're going to use this money to meter wells. I will tell you, there is not that kind of money in this fund to pay for the meters on wells. If they wanted to use this fund to do a 50 percent cost-share on meters in the Republican Basin, there would be a woefully inadequate source of money here. There would have to be some other source of money to do that. But does this amendment, this bill that we're choosing to amend on LB 619, stop them from doing that? No. But there's not enough money in the Soil and Water Conservation Fund to adequately fund a water meter program in the Republican Basin. There's just not that kind of money there.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator, I would think that farmers all over the state would be concerned about this amendment.

SPEAKER BROMM: Time. Thank you, Senator Beutler and Senator Schrock. Senator Preister.

SENATOR PREISTER: Thank you, Mr. President. I will yield the time to Senator Beutler, if he likes it.

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Beutler, would you like the time?