

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

March 2, 2004

LB 962

the irrigating, who have or are in the process of depleting the water of this state, have been given an inordinate say in how the state's water is to be managed. Turning the management of water over to those who have created the problem is like letting Jesse James and Frank James design the security system for the banks, and let the Dalton brothers set up a security guard service, and they guard the banks. These are the ones who make security necessary. So you don't turn it over to them. I'd like to ask Senator Schrock a question, the answer to which I believe is obvious.

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Schrock, would you yield again, please?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Schrock, on average, or in most circumstances, will a person knowingly take a decision that is going to disadvantage him or her financially, if that decision would not have to be taken in that fashion?

SENATOR SCHROCK: Most people will take the position that will be helpful to them financially.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And this bill is designed to help the irrigators, isn't it?

SENATOR SCHROCK: I don't believe so, Senator Chambers. This bill is designed to preserve the resource that we have, to make sure it's used in an equitable manner and in a fair manner, to make sure that the resource will be there for the next generations.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: If this bill were to be enacted, will irrigators have access to more water or less water?

SENATOR SCHROCK: In some cases it won't matter; in other cases there will probably be less water.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Will they in all cases have enough water to grow crops on the land they are irrigating if that is what they're doing with the land?

SENATOR SCHROCK: Not necessarily. In some areas the supply