

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

March 3, 2004

LB 962

investors, their stockholders, want more than a 2 percent return on investment. It's only those of us who have been there, who our forefathers, grandparents were strong enough to withstand all the economic challenges. And, by the way, any farmer now who's farming 1,000 acres or more, he can probably show you that there was four or five homesteads on that just 20 years ago. Rex Amack, director of Game and Parks, comes from Red Cloud, Nebraska. He says when he grew up, in the township he was in, in Webster County, and that's down by Red Cloud, where I represent, he said there was 32 families on that township; today there's 2. It's dog-eat-dog out there, and only the fittest survive, and sometimes it takes a little luck, and sometimes it helps if you miss the hail storms. I would love to be able to exact more taxes...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR SCHROCK: ...from agriculture, but it's not there. You can't squeeze blood out of a turnip. And we have about two-thirds of the Ogallala Aquifer underneath this state. The rest of it is scattered out amongst about six or seven other states. And if you go to southwest Kansas, I just read an article in one of my farm magazines, their water table is declining fast. And one of the things I heard from the task force is that we want water for the next generation and we want water for our grandkids. And if we pass this bill and we get a handle on what's being...what's happening in different basins, we can preserve that water, with maybe the exception of a portion of Senator Baker's district out there by Imperial. There's a section there where they are mining the water, and I don't know if their water table is ever going to come back. So there...there's some exceptions. There's a place out at Alliance where they're mining too, and I'm not sure that's going to come back. But for most of the state, if we're prudent in how we use water, it will regenerate, it will recharge. The rivers will flow and...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator. Senator Mines, you're recognized to speak next.

SENATOR MINES: Thank you, Mr. President. Senator Schrock, I