

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

March 4, 2004

LB 962

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...then I would not object, when the amendment or this section of the divided question is added to the bill, striking what I'm offering. The reason, in line 23, I think we should strike "or" and insert the words "and any," the current language says "each owner of the appropriation or of the land under such appropriation shall have 30 days," and so forth. There is a possibility, and in some cases it's not rare, the owner of the appropriation is not necessarily the owner of the land, and throughout the bill they don't have an either/or, where you notify one or the other. Since both would be affected, both should receive the notice. So, instead of saying "each owner of the appropriation or of the land," we would say "each owner of the appropriation and any..."

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you. (Doctor of the day introduced.) On with discussion of the Chambers amendment, Senator Louden, followed by Senator Schrock, Erdman, Kremer, Baker, Beutler.

SENATOR LOUDEN: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. As this bill has been divided and the part of it now we're talking about, surface water is what's under consideration, and I think we've probably lost some of the sight of what we probably should be trying to do here, but this is the concern about surface water in Nebraska and probably primarily in the Platte River Valley. And I think, as the time has changed over the years, we've went through this drought, and as we go through droughts and that sort of thing, we learn how to operate differently. And when going through that drought, the folks out west have learned how to irrigate differently. I think your streamflows are probably going to be affected and will probably never be the same. When they used to flood irrigate from the dams out of Wyoming and those areas, that water usually worked on through the fields and worked back into the rivers and went on down and was diverted into various canals and then some ended up in Lake McConaughy and was used over again. The present time, that country out there, they found they get more use out of the water if they use a circle pivot or