

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

March 17, 2004 LB 962

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Thank you, Mr. President. Senator Schrock, would you yield to a question?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Schrock.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Yes, I will.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: You stated that this is the amendment that Senator Erdman had initially proposed and it's now embodied in this bill. Is that correct?

SENATOR SCHROCK: That is correct.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: And, as you well know, in Sidney, Nebraska, they had quite a bit of difficulty between the community and the NRD board, and there was a question about the utilization of the water for domestic purposes. Is this amendment intended to correct that issue and, if so, how?

SENATOR SCHROCK: It's not necessarily amended...it's not necessarily an amendment to correct that issue and, by the way, I'm told that they have resolved their differences out there and they're proceeding.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Yes.

SENATOR SCHROCK: And so...but it is...it is designed to clarify it so that municipalities and domestic use is a higher priority and it sets that in statute. It says that domestic use is the number one priority over any other use. We already know that, but it clarifies that. It clarifies the municipalities' rights when it comes to water, and I don't think there's anybody involved in agriculture that would deny municipalities water, at least I certainly wouldn't, when it's necessary. And I don't know where you throw in watering lawns and golf courses, but even I think that's a reasonable use of water for the most part of the state.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Well, as you know, they did have difficulty in Sidney in the working out of the details of the use of that water, and there seemed to be a feeling on the NRD