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FLOOR DEBATE

January 24, 2006 LB 32

passed out. There's some good information. I would say this about water. It's an amazing resource, and I don't understand why it recharges as well as it does. The Ogallala Aquifer lies in about seven or eight states, but two-thirds of the water is in Nebraska. South Dakota, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Kansas, would die to have the resource we have. We are very fortunate. And it's good economic activity for our farmers. It's just good for the state. So we're very blessed. There's only one state that has more irrigated acres than Nebraska, and that's California. So...but we...the time has come when we need to take preventive action so that we don't cause more problems. Matter of fact, it probably went too far, but the political climate probably didn't let us act any earlier. So with that, I'm looking forward to the debate with Senator Beutler. I appreciate his concern, I appreciate his involvement. I want you to know that. And I think his intentions are great. So with that, that's my introduction, and we'll look forward to more comments. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schrock. You've heard the opening on LB 32. Mr. Clerk, amendment, please.

CLERK: Mr. President, I...Senator Beutler, I had an amendment, Senator, that was filed last year from you, FA76. I didn't...that's the first amendment I have.

SENATOR CUDABACK: It is withdrawn.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Beutler would move to amend with AM1696. (Legislative Journal page 441.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Beutler, to open on your amendment.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Clerk, Senator Cudaback, members of the Legislature, we're dealing with water today, and we're dealing with a bill that is really only peripheral to the central issue of how we're going to deal with water in this session. But we have, clearly, a crisis upon us. It is a crisis at the level of \$100 million or more. And if we do nothing this year, then in all likelihood, by the end of next year we will have put ourselves in the position of potentially paying a great deal of