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FLOOR DEBATE

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pretty much in tune to what's going on out there in both basins. And of course, he's Chair of the Appropriations Committee. That's key. And I want to tell you again, I am not in favor of paying farmers not to irrigate, and that's not what the negotiations between the surface water project in Red Cloud and the Governor and the department is going on now. There is water available in Harlan County Reservoir to send to Kansas, but it is owned by the irrigators of the surface water project. I would never support the state being involved in programs to pay deep well irrigators not to irrigate. I don't think we have that kind of resources. I think the Honorable Senator Pederson here would agree with me. But if the quickest way to get into compliance with Kansas is to buy a little surface water, then I think we should take a look at those options. It certainly beats paying a settlement. Can we get into compliance with Kansas? I don't know. That's up to the Attorney General's Office to decide. And I encourage you, any of you, as individuals, to talk to Dave Cookson. He's sitting in the corner of the building, usually down in his office down there by Senator Cudaback. Talk to him about these issues. These aren't simple issues. And I think farmers are coming around. It's taken longer than I'd like, but we were fighting forces that I couldn't do much about. We're fighting an organization that's saying things about water that aren't true, and then we were fighting an Attorney General who said we didn't have a problem, that we would win in court. Senator Beutler, if we didn't have a compact with Kansas, I still think we would...

SPEAKER BRASHEAR PRESIDING

SPEAKER BRASHEAR: One minute.

SENATOR SCHROCK: ...have been sued, and we would have this problem. Would you agree with that? Senator Beutler,...

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator, I'm sorry. I was somewhere else. What did you say?

SENATOR SCHROCK: I don't have much time left, but respond to this. Even if we didn't have a compact with Kansas, I think we would have been sued, and we still would have had the same