January 24, 2006   LB 32, 785, 845, 889, 948, 957

SENATOR BEUTLER: I want to go back to the chart and explore
with your further what it all means, but I think I will not do
that with such a short period of time. And let me just say
this.   Many of you, I think, are going to be uncertain about
this amendment, whether it's on the right bill, whether it's the
right thing altogether, whether it needs to be fit together with
other pieces. The answer is, it's probably not the right bill,
it's not the only piece.

SPEAKER BRASHEAR: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: But you've got to send a message to the people
who can make this happen, and you've got to send it this year,
and you've got to send it early in the session, so that people
can get together and reach that critical compromise. Senator
Schrock is doing a number of things, but nothing that he is
doing comes anywhere close to approaching the scale of the
problem as identified by the Department of Water Resources and
others. Nowhere close. The one bill...there are two bills that
can help a lot.   One has already been killed by the Natural
Resources Committee, the conservation fee bill that would have
put a fee on per acre, per irrigated acre to help solve the
problem. It could have raised $16 million a year, which in a
few years' time, combined with some other things,...

SPEAKER BRASHEAR: Time, Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...could be a part of the solution.

SPEAKER BRASHEAR: Thank you. Mr. Clerk, matters for the
record.

CLERK: Mr. President, your Committee on General Affairs,
chaired by Senator Janssen, reports LB 845 to General File;
LB 889, General File; LB 785, indefinitely postponed; LB 948,
indefinitely postponed.   I have an amendment to be printed to
LB 32 by Senator Chambers. And Senator Kremer would like to add
his name to LB 957 as cointroducer. That's all that I had,
Mr. President. (Legislative Journal page 453.)

SPEAKER BRASHEAR: Thank you, Mr. Clerk.   Members, while the