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FLOOR DEBATE

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SENATOR JANSSEN: And every irrigator would be assessed a certain portion; is that right, so many dollars per acre or whatever it would be--two dollars, three dollars, whatever the amount is?

SENATOR BEUTLER: That's right, so much per irrigated acre,...

SENATOR JANSSEN: Um-hum, and reading the...

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...but not every year, only in...

SENATOR JANSSEN: Only in the years where it was...

SENATOR BEUTLER: Where there's a shortage, and we're going to have to pay Kansas.

SENATOR JANSSEN: ...a shortage or...okay, all right. Now if, say, in one portion of that basin I had a 600-acre farm and I was adequately benefited by rainfall, which I didn't need to irrigate. But then I would still be charged or assessed this assessment, and then, if I'm reading it right, you would be refunded if you did not use any water that year; is that correct?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator, no, there's not a provision like that. The refund provision goes to any amount that goes into the fund--total amount that goes into the fund--that turns out to be not needed. For example, one year Kansas may not get enough water, and so there would be money put into the fund. The next year maybe they got too much water, and we're looking at these balances over years, so it may be that there would be a refund at some point in time. That would be up to the department. But...

SENATOR JANSSEN: So if...but if you...if you're using...even if you didn't use any water in that particular year, you would still be assessed so much per irrigated acre that you have; is that correct?

SENATOR BEUTLER: That's correct.