

occurred here in this Legislature on this proposal that sometimes happens on a lot of others. The blacks become whites and the whites become blacks, people switch sides. (No, Ernie, you know what I mean.) My point is this. Senator Vickers and Senator Wesely and some of those people have been working on one side to get these very things implemented. I mean these are things they just dreamed of and could never get through a few years ago, interrelationship between ground and surface, recognizing recharge and actually charging for it. I mean this is a dream bill for them a few years ago. The problem is it really does do a whole bunch of these things they talked about and some of their people don't like it now. Some of their people really don't want to have these things happen that they have been trying to do and so kind of like being born again, they discovered that when you have these noble ideas they have repercussions and other ramifications. So I say the temptation is to say, well, Senator Vickers, we've listened to your wisdom and by golly, we should kill it but I really believe you are sitting on one of the most major water bills this Legislature has dealt with. I think you should pass it and it does, it has implications that maybe go beyond what even many of its sponsors fully appreciate and believe. I would suggest we get her passed and finally recognize that even if only accidentally and inadvertently and coming from directions you never expected, you stumbled onto some of the most major water legislation we will ever get passed so I urge you to reject the kill, though indeed the temptation is otherwise.

PRESIDENT: Senator Kahle.

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. President and members, Senator Vickers, arguments have been long and loud and I would say that the canals that I know about and he is condemning are being sealed to some degree to try and stop some of the ditch loss. I'm also familiar with what he is talking about in the Republican Valley. That is where my wife came from and where my mother-in-law still owns land and where they irrigated since 1940 before the canals ever came in and it is an entirely different situation there. They have a narrow valley that is very chopped up and with varying degrees of sand and so-called gravel which is entirely different than the Platte Valley. But I think Senator Vickers has missed the entire point in what we are trying to do with 198 and what Senator DeCamp just mentioned, the necessity of getting this kind of legislation passed and the necessity of establishing water rights. And the only reason in the world that I want to put a small fee on, and that those supporting this side of it want to put a small fee on is to provide the funding so that we can go after those water rights. How in heaven's name are you going to go to court if necessary, go to any extreme