

but we have called upon the department of water resources and the conservation survey and we have had many, many consultations with the various groups in the state that has the most interest in this type of a program. I would certainly urge acceptance of this bill.

PRESIDENT: Chair recognizes Senator Stull, then Whitney, Nore then DeCamp.

SENATOR STULL: Mr. Chairman, members of the legislature, I'm interested in this bill when people in our area have been interested in conservation of underground water for some time. They have a good many wells spaced throughout the county and they are keeping records on these wells the year around. Now the thing that concerns me is that I would like to know just how you are going to establish the granting of permits for these new wells. Is it going to...will it be a committee at the local level or is it going to be a committee composed of people here in Lincoln. Now I would like to understand who is going to be regulating this before I vote for the introduction of this bill. I know that this group of people in our area they have more information than the University has on this, and they don't always agree with the information that the state puts out.

PRESIDENT: Senator Kremer, do you care to respond?

SENATOR KREMER: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature. I believe that I would yield to Senator Lewis. It was his subcommittee that conducted the hearing and had the responsibility of drafting the bill and I would yield to Senator Lewis.

PRESIDENT: Senator Lewis, Senator Stull has a question for you here, will you yield?

SENATOR LEWIS: Yes, yes I will.

PRESIDENT: Senator Kremer, Senator Lewis will yield.

SENATOR STULL: Senator Lewis, the make-up of this committee that is going to be regulating the permits, the issuing of permits,

SENATOR LEWIS: You would like to know the make-up of this committee? Well there a...a...the law is presently drawn or the provisions that we have built into this bill are that the local NRD boards will make an analysis of the situation and that the permit will be granted by the Director of water resources. After consultation and upon the recommendations of this board. Now this board as you know, they are elected under the new procedure these will all be elected and everyone will vote on every member. Unless an area is deemed critical, there will be no problem, it is just a formality. It is only in the areas that are deemed critical that we are proposing to put some limitations on it. Incidentally very close to your area I have quite a number of letters from Banner County, right south of Bayard, which is not too terribly far from your area where they have an acute problem at this time, and they have asked us if they have any recourse as to what they can do to limit the irrigation development in that area because it has exhausted their domestic water and it is putting the livestock industry in a bit of a bind.

PRESIDENT: Next to speak is Senator Whitney, Nore, DeCamp, F. Carstens and Simpson.