

(start belt #6)

so that they were getting 2,500 gallons per minute instead of a thousand gallons per minute which would affect the overall plan that you have got.

PRESIDENT: Senator Kremer, do you care to respond? I'm not sure that the body could see you shaking your head is my reason for asking you to respond.

SENATOR KREMER: I was apparently trying to agree with the good Senator from Holt County. The way the bill is written and Senator Lewis can comment on it, the way the bill is written it does not deal at all, this particular bill does not deal at all with existing laws in the way of increasing capacity by installing a pump that would pump more water. Something like that may be forth coming, but as I understand it the state of Nebraska, if we arrive at a crisis, can go two directions. We can either limit the number of wells in a critical area, or we can allow anyone to drill all the wells that they want and then adjust the amount of water that can be pumped from each well. We could go that direction. The committee felt that we would undertake this bill this session and see what the people that have an interest have to say about it. I hope I have answered your question Senator DeCamp, but if Senator Lewis wants to comment further on it.

SENATOR DE CAMP: OK, maybe you can explain this for me. At the present time, land that can be irrigated doesn't have wells on it yet, has a potential value of X amount of dollars because of that irrigation potential. Now if this bill is passed, as I understand it, there would be the possibility and maybe even the probability that even though the water potential is there they would not be allowed to put down a well. So the land might go back and possibly would go back from \$400 an acre to \$100. Has this been foreseen?

SENATOR KREMER: Yes, we are very much aware of that. I would like to read to you section five of the bill, Senator DeCamp, which provides the criteria which will determine if or not, the area is a critical area. Alright, number one, when a ground water levels are declining or have declined excessively. Number two, conflicts between users are occurring or may occur. Three, the waste of occurring or may occur or conditions exist or may arise that will require regulation for the protection of the public interests. Now then just because an area is declared critical, this does not mean that a person can not drill a well. It merely says that a permit must be at hand before he can drill that well. We are simply going to have to come to grips with the problem, make a decision that is hard to make, I think that all of us are always hopeful that we never would have arrived at this place. We are not the only state. The time has come that we need to discuss it and throw it out before the public, we also have to make a critical decision, are we going to allow over development to the extent that we all are going to be out of water. Now many thing that we still have lots of water in the aquaduct and we do. But you will remember that domestic use comes first, and if the water supply in our underground aquaduct ever gets to the place where we have only 40% left, we...a...irrigation will automatically be cut off in my opinion, because what is left will have to be left there for domestic use. So in some of these areas we are much closer to a crisis than we think we are. While I am here Mr. Chairman I would like to make comment here in