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LB 27

SENATOR KEYES: Twenty, twenty-five feet.

SENATOR KREMER: That is within the cone of operation in a well. Now, over the entire area, and I can use an example, some information that was brought to us from the southwestern part of the state, in the Imperial area, I believe there the information given to the committee was that the water level has dropped something over fifteen feet in three years. That means this, that during the irrigating season, it may drop as much as fifteen or twenty feet. Then when the irrigation season stops, it will recover but never as much as to the level where it was before the irrigation season started. And that is why you say about a drop of fifteen feet over a period of three year time means that is a drop that will not be recovered. In my area, it drops about an average of a foot a year.

SENATOR KEYES: In other words, what you are saying then, the average depth that a man with his own private well is going to have to come in before he has any legitimate excuse is going to have to come in and lower his well at least whatever the water table drops there. So that if I have a well on my place that is one hundred and twenty-five feet deep and I am getting all the water I need to drink and somebody puts in an irrigation well just across the fence and lowers my level to where I am out of water, then I have to bring my well down to the depth that they bring it before it is reasonable, is that right?

SENATOR KREMER: I would think that your well would be reasonable. There are those that are much shallower than that which would be unreasonable in my opinion.

SENATOR KEYES: It wasn't with irrigation wells what happened to slow my down to where I had to use two wells but it was with the Omaha Public Power when they put their wells on. I suddenly found that the water table in mine had dropped, my pump, I had to lower it and shut off the valve so I am very concerned that the individual don't have to go in and satisfy the needs, his needs, by digging his well deeper just to satisfy irrigators or those who take water for public utilities. I am very concerned about what you are trying to do in this, Senator Kremer, and reasonable to me isn't ten feet or twenty feet. Reasonable, if you happen to go down to some areas of this nation of ours, you will find that reasonable is two to three thousand feet deep to get water and I would hate to think that we would get ourselves in such a position as that in certain parts of this state even.