

the courts or by the individual that if that water table drops a foot or so below the end of the pipe that you are taking the water out of the well with that you cannot blame your neighbor or groups of neighbors or irrigation in general for that problem. I know that it could go to the extreme and cause problems but I believe this is a step in the right direction and I think it is the only way we are going to be able to develop our state and continue to operate under the system that we have providing access to water by individuals on a fair basis. Now just because somebody waters two cows over on a farm with a domestic well, he can stop the whole production of an area and this is not right, I do not believe. So I think we are taking a step in the right direction. It may well be that we need some safeguards in this bill, that we should have some depths amounts that you have to change. For instance, if it is ten or twenty feet difference, it might be good to have this in the bill so that we are not going down and doing what Senator Keyes suggested. We might have to go down several hundred feet. Generally, I think the bill would cover what is bothering us right now. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President, members of the body, I support this concept. We must remember that irrigation adds billions of dollars to the Nebraska economy each year and, therefore, we should try to help the irrigators out. However, I do have several questions that I would like to ask Mr. Kremer, Senator Kremer, if he will yield.

SENATOR KREMER: I yield.

SENATOR HEFNER: Do we license well drillers in the State of Nebraska now?

SENATOR KREMER: No, sir.

SENATOR HEFNER: Do you have any intent of introducing a bill that would do this?

SENATOR KREMER: The Well Drillers Association, Senator Hefner, asked that a bill be introduced I think four years ago and then they split up a little bit on their desire that this bill be passed by the Legislature and it died in committee. A year later, they again came back and said we would like to have the bill introduced and again they drew back. We talked to Vince Griesen that was Secretary of the Well Drillers, he may still be that, and he said