

way that I can see that you are going to control water without knowing how much is being pumped and who is pumping it. In the last summer I was up into the irrigated territory. I spent practically a whole week up there investigating what I thought was the problem and we all admit it is a problem. A lot of these irrigators admitted there is no way that they can handle or control this without meters. The only ones that I found that did not want meters are those that want more than their share. So if we are going to share this water with a control, how are we going to do it without the meter? It is just like driving a car. How do you know you are doing 55 miles an hour without a speedometer? I think this is very pure, very simple to what has to be done to make this work and I can see no way that we are going to put these people in any kind of a position to do this outside of we telling them what can be done. We are telling them how much money they can spend, so why can't we go ahead and show them how this can be done? I have had a lot of inquiries how much meters will cost. Meters will run about \$300 a piece. This might be a hardship on a man that has spent 25 to \$50,000 on a pivot system. I don't know whether he can afford another \$300 or not but I can see a lot worse investments and even the big irrigators today says it is worth that just to know where they stand within their waters. So why shouldn't those that want to scavenge water be under the same jurisdiction as those that want to conserve water. I ask for your deep consideration. As we know our water is one of the most valuable things we have. Before too long we are going to have another little problem with this and that is this nitrate buildup and so this will add to it too. When you go to have a nitrate problem you are going to have to have some idea how much water has been pumped and how much nitrate has been added. This is all within the realm of our problem with water and I am sure we want to do something about it. I don't suppose some of you are ready yet but I think it is time to move on this and I ask for your deep consideration in regard to this amendment.

PRESIDENT: Speaking to the Merz amendment, the Chair recognizes Senator Kremer.

SENATOR KREMER: Mr. Chairman, I was going to say I'm sorry I have to oppose this but I am not sorry. I am going to oppose it. If you will turn to the bill on page 7 you will note that the bill as written today does provide that a Natural Resource District may require meters if necessary. The committee, in studying this, felt that