

they already have that authority but there was a question so we put it in LB 26 which spells out for a fact that a meter may be required if necessary. The Merz amendment to the bill would require, as I understand it, a meter on every well in a control area whether it is needed or not. Talk about cost, it may be that only a certain area of a control area will require a meter, not the whole area. Here we are forcing them to do something that may not be necessary. We had a bill like that in our committee. We killed it. The testimony brought out the fact that it would not be wise to require a meter on every well, especially when it is not necessary. They may be using other methods of conservation and development without a meter, without a measuring device, so why force this expense on the owner of the pumps as well as force the expense on the NRD's that have to calibrate the meters, they have to read them, they have to repair them. I believe it is unnecessary to force this expense when it is not necessary, therefore, I oppose the amendment.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Cullan.

SENATOR CULLAN: I call the question.

PRESIDENT: The question has been called for. Do I see five hands? I do. All those in favor of ceasing debate vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Voting on ceasing debate. Record the vote.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 1 nay to cease debate, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Motion passes. Debate ceases. Senator Merz, will you close on your amendment?

SENATOR MERZ: Mr. President, members, this will be short but I am sorry to have to oppose my good colleague, Senator Kremer, in some of his statements. He said that the NRD's would have to repair these meters. I don't think that that would be necessary. If it is owned by this man he should repair his own machine and also in the reading these meters, the people can read their own meters. They read their electric light bill. They don't have to go around and read the light meter. These can be sent in so there would be no problem there and also he said there is a lot of people in this controlled area do not need meters. Why are they in the controlled area if they have no water problems? To me we have to somehow, somewhere, find out how much water we really have. I think we had one of our state experts tell us two years ago this state was a sea