

SENATOR KREMER: I would like to give a little more of a clear-cut answer to Senator Lewis' question. Senator Lewis, I have given a little more thought to your question. Even if you had a problem in your NRD area, it does not mean that the whole area would go under control. If you had a problem just in a certain section that is the only area in your NRD that could assess this extra mill. It is just where the problem is and it would probably be out in the rural. I can really see no reason why Omaha would go under control. In my attempt to answer Senator Kelly, I said there are six basic and important parts of LB 26 that does make a change to the present tool that we have given the Natural Resource Districts under which to operate in namely, LB 577. If you would like to take your bill I will call your attention to these six areas. On page 2, it brings in one more provision or a guideline that would warrant the request to go under controls. Senator Kelly has already alluded to that and that is when the depletion of groundwater is such that there is a danger of a salt solution, salts, the various salts coming in and polluting the underground water system which would be a tragedy. If that is true, and I understand there are several areas in the state where this is already beginning to happen, it would give one more reason, one more authority, to call for a hearing. Number 2, on page 4, it allows for an adjacent area to be brought in with the one that is now under control or under consideration to go under control. I all ready have explained that and that cannot be accomplished except by hearing and except by written consent from the area that is under consideration. Number 3, and we discussed this this morning, under Senator Merz's amendment to the bill. It does provide on page 7 that the NRD does have the authority to place meters on the wells if necessary. Number 4 in the bill, I refer you to page 8, it requires a hearing before rules and regulations are adopted. In other words, it does by law what is being done by practice at the present time. They are now doing that but before the hearing has been held, the area of concern has been delineated and now before rules and regulations can be adopted there has to be another hearing. That gives ample protection to everyone that is involved to come in and tell their story, like it or do not like it. Number 5 is on page 11, it extends from twelve to eighteen months time for a district to adopt rules and regulations before the director can act. We felt in the beginning under 577 that twelve months was ample time, however, there are those that feel after this several years of experience that it is rather difficult in some cases at least to adopt rules and regulations that are