

March 19, 1979

LB 26

would all go with it, and I would yield the balance of my time to him, with the understanding that what he's going to propose involves you, Senator Carsten, on your amendment, and me on mine, Senator Schmit and Cullan. In other words, it involves withdrawing all those amendments so that we can get to the heart of the bill, so if it's okay, I'd like to yield to Senator Kremer and have him explain this proposal. I repeat one more time, LB 26 is critical from the standpoint of all other water law, and the functioning of the NRDs and their ability...their ability to enforce our water laws, and that's the heart of the bill we've got to have, and these other things I think are peripheral matters. Senator Kremer, would...

SENATOR KREMER: Mr. Chairman.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Kremer.

SENATOR KREMER: Members of the Legislature, some years ago, I read a little prayer, and I kind of liked what it said, and I kind of memorized it. I'd like to share it with you. It goes something like this. Lord give me wisdom while at the crossroads. Give me patience when I'm on the long road. and give me endurance when I'm on the high road, and give me the common sense to turn around when I'm on the wrong road. Now I'm not real sure whether I'm at the crossroads or on the wrong roads at this point. This bill has received much attention. Certain parts of the bill have been under study for not two years, but four years. The way to fund control measures has been discussed for a number of years. Should we go to a water tax? Should we provide for a mill levy that's sufficient to do a good job of enforcing control measures...should an area go under control? Now, what's happened? First I would like to say, that someone else has said, it's not new with me, that we are living in a crisis oriented society. Senator Matzke, deceased now at this time, one of our good friends that served in this Legislature, said very well that the poorest time...the poorest time to propose legislation having to do with flood control is the day before it happens, and the best time is the morning after. The morning after is going to come. Just as certain as we are here in this Legislature, the time is coming where we're going to have to deal with the use of our water, because in some areas we're going to run out. On LB 26 there's been a great deal of false information. It's gotten under way in much of our state. I have been accused of proposing legislation here that would raise the mill of five or six mills, that would shut off the irrigation