

April 2, 1980

LB 643

off the natural cover. They are putting center pivots in there. They are pouring fertilizer on in such an extent and such quantities that forty to fifty percent of it leached down into the groundwater and that groundwater is gradually moving down towards the Missouri River, down towards the urban areas and in just a few short years we are going to have serious nitrite pollution, we are going to have serious blowouts, we are going to have serious soil erosion because of this kind of development. Now as a result of this kind of development, the county boards in Boone County and Wheeler County and Garfield County have all petitioned the Lower Loup NRD to set up a control area, and in these counties, Garfield County, Wheeler, Boone, Loup and Rock, there has been an enormous growth in center pivot irrigation. Between 1972 and 1978, we have gone from 219 center pivot systems to 1,012 center pivot systems, and with this particular provision that Senator Lamb wants to strike is it gives the NRD up in that area some authority to be able to control this development before more horses get out of the barn, before more damage is done and I think the record should reflect that if this amendment is successful we are going to be able to hold Senator Lamb responsible for the nitrite pollution, for the blowouts and for the further damage done to the sandhill area, in his legislative district, in Garfield County, in Wheeler County, Boone County, Loup County and part of Rock County because we are trying to give the local authorities up there some power to deal with this problem on a local basis and we have a lot of people in this Legislature that talk about local authority. We have a lot of people in this Legislature that sing the tune of local authority but when it comes down to biting the bullet and giving the local authority the powers they need to deal with these problems suddenly it is unfair, suddenly we haven't thought about it enough, and suddenly a bill that we have been working on for nine months that is a more thoroughly scrutinized than any other bill this session, suddenly a bill that has been approved and has been ratified by the Nebraska Farm Bureau, the Nebraska Stockgrowers, the Nebraska Rural Power District, the Southwest Irrigation District, the Nebraska State Grange and the Nebraska State Livestock Feeders, suddenly that kind of bill is no longer good, suddenly that kind of bill has got to be sent back for more study, while we have nitrite pollution, while we have blowouts, while we have erosion that is going to be irreversible, irreversible in the very district of the sponsor of this amendment and I think the record should reflect where the responsibility is going to lie and I urge you to vote against this amendment.

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