

April 2, 1980

LB 643

like now. I did commit myself to explain the bill and to defend the bill to the best of my ability. As I vote, I did not offer a lot of comment and you do not hear me speak. I will vote for the bill. I will vote for the committee amendments simply because it was taken back to Public Works Committee. We reviewed it and we discussed it. We amended it and we think we have come out with a piece of legislation we could live with based on experience. Now if experience proves that we have done something that is wrong, there is no reason why we will not come back next year and try to improve. I am going to predict that as the policy issues that have been referred to the Natural Resources Commission come back to this body based on the intent bills brought out by the Appropriations Committee, on the studies that will be carried on this summer, we are going to have water issues before us for a long, long time. It is not going to stop today. It is not going to stop tomorrow. We do not know how extensive development is going to be. No one knows. We do not know what the weather behavior is going to be like. I predict this, that if there is a tendency for the markets to come back, they may and they may not, if they don't, we are all in trouble, but if they do and we get a period of dry years, drouth years like we have experienced in the past, some severe, some not so severe, we are going to have intensive development and we are going to need, we are going to need good management practices and we have tried to establish that with this bill. I am going to further comment on what some of us have tried to say in the past. Unless we use the other tool that goes along with this one on management and seek to develop our water resources and to build more reservoirs and to recharge this underground aquifer, we have got trouble like you never heard of. There is no way out, not only in this state, in our surrounding states, especially in the high plains states. Water is so important to our state and I hope this bill is not as disastrous as some may think that it is, and if it is, believe me, I will be one who will come back next session and do my best to amend what we are trying to do today. That is all the comments I have, Mr. Chairman. I again renew my motion to adopt the committee amendments and then to move the bill.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Okay, the motion is the adoption of the committee amendments to 643. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. Have you all voted? Senator Kremer. There are three absent.

SENATOR KREMER: Mr. Chairman, again all of us are conscious