

April 2, 1980

LB 643

strongly urge that we move the bill to Select File giving us the opportunity to work out our differences and come out with some kind of constructive water legislation this year.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Before we proceed, in the North balcony from Senator Merz' District, under the North balcony, okay, Mrs. Slayton from Salem, Nebraska who is ninety years young. Will you raise your hand so we can wish you good morning? Senator Wesely. We are speaking to the advancement of the bill.

SENATOR WESELY: Yes, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I had this tremendous speech prepared to talk about the amended LB 643 which now seems like it wouldn't be at all appropriate. Of course, I worked a long time on it and I feel very good about it but I won't share it with you at this time. There may be a later date at which it would be more appropriate but there are a couple of things I do want to mention before we advance LB 643 and I agree with Senator Dworak that we should do that because it is our one and only vehicle to deal with water legislation this year. And that is the one point I was going to make was that the question about the amendments to LB 643 and this bill in general is round one in a long fight, a very important fight. It is one that isn't going to be resolved this year or next year or very soon in the future because exactly that is what we are talking about, our future in this state. And we are going to see a trend that is going to develop over time where more and more interest in this very important issue of water resources in Nebraska will gain the attention of all citizens of the state, urban and rural. That is one of the most important things about the bill, now not amended properly but still the vehicle for what we saw as the first real attempt to combine urban and rural interest in dealing with this most important issue, water resources in Nebraska. But the majority of the members of this body have selected not to enhance that bill and to make it significant. We do have a good piece of legislation nevertheless. I would like to emphasize to you and this was another point I was going to make in my tremendous speech which now won't be given, in that I want to quote Governor Thone who isn't always recognized for his dynamic leadership in this state but nevertheless said in his statehood address just a few short months ago. "As I said in my statehood day speech last year, because of the critical importance of water to this state and its many complexities, we must not move too