

here is one that is rather important, a new factor for the director to consider in making his decision would be that "alternative sources of water available to the basin of origin for future beneficial use". He has to address that issue that the basin of origin should also look at another source of supply whatever it may be, and there are those other sources of supply. In number 4 the director would be required to specify in his or her order the reasons for granting or denying the application. And the last one is rather minor in nature and it's in the title, when the term "groundwater" is used it should be corrected to read "surface water" because that is what we are talking about. These, ladies and gentlemen, are the amendments to LB 252, and I move for their adoption.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I have no objection to the committee amendments. This is the kind of a bill where I have a bit of a dilemma as to whether to try to explain the bill now or to attach first the committee amendments which are largely technical but not entirely. And I think that what I will do is ask your indulgence with regard to the committee amendments with my assurance that those committee amendments have been agreed upon by both the pro basin of origin and the pro transfer people on the committee, and hopefully then we can discuss and center the discussion on the bill as a whole. And I think that will be the most useful way to approach the matter. Basically, by and large, the committee amendments are neutral amendments as far as the controversy is concerned between the basin of origin and the applicant or the basin to which the water will be transferred, with the exception of the one factor that is added providing that alternative sources of water available to the basin of origin for future beneficial uses. But the pro basin of origin people on the committee decided that that was a reasonable compromise to allow that to be added, and so that is in the committee amendments. The most important part of the committee amendments, I think, are two procedural amendments actually. One of them makes it very clear that the preference system that we have established in the State of Nebraska, domestic, then agriculture, then industrial, that preference system is not changed by anything in this law, and that's an important point, maybe the most important one in the committee amendments. And, secondly, it provides that the Director of Water Resources in making a decision on the question of whether water should be transferred or not will have to specify in his order the reasons for granting or denying the application. Right now that is not required and it is