

the newer members of this body that the Department of Environmental Control was created by a bill which I introduced in 1971. Virtually all of the pro environmental legislation which has been passed in this body has either been introduced by myself or in cooperation with other legislators in regard to that issue. I believe we have a strong Department of Environmental Control. I am proud of it. I am proud to have been instrumental in its creation and I am proud to have been a part of it and I intend to continue to see that the Environmental Control Department exists and is an entity which is helpful to the State of Nebraska and all the natural resources of this state. Therefore, it comes as somewhat of a shock to me, I suppose, that after many years that a policy whereby water legislation was directed to the Public Works Committee where it was dealt with, I believe, fairly, expeditiously, not that it wouldn't have been dealt this same way in any other committee, but under the auspices of several different chairmen, that this year there is an attempt being made to move some bills that have historically been assigned to that committee back to the Committee on Agriculture and Environment. The reason given is that these water quality bills have suddenly and auspiciously and by some strange system become environmental bills. Any bill can have several homes. We all know that. There is an overlapping interest. Certainly the Agriculture Committee has an interest in this issue. But let me tell you also what is involved. The bills involve controls on the regulation, installation of irrigation equipment. All of those bills have always gone to the Committee on Public Works. And I want to say at the outset, I want to say that there have been times, there have been a number of times when I have introduced bills which I thought might possibly have gone to the Ag Committee, but anything that dealt with irrigation, that dealt with water, went to the Public Works Committee. Let me give you a little history, and I do not want to bore you, but I think it is important. I am going to read this into the record. I have handed out for your enlightenment the history of some of these bills. I am going to read into the record so that we do not have a lack of knowledge as to where these bills properly should be assigned. LB 227 and 284 amend Section 46-612.01, Article VI of Chapter 46 is entitled "Groundwater". Article VI contains five subdivisions which concern the various areas of groundwater. The first deals with well registration. That bill, LB 110, in 1957 was referred to the Committee on Public Works. The