

hydrological study to see if anybody else is going to be hurt, whether you're a farmer, no matter where you are. And as far as Senator Haberman's question about metering, of course, that would be metering...metered if it's in a special protection area that's protecting the aquifers. Just like in the Upper Republican, the cities as well as the farmers meter their water. And if the NRD, down here, wants to do that, that's no problem, it can be done. And with that, thinking about all of the transferring that's being done across the state for all kinds of things, including Heritage Hills Golf Course in McCook, this is not a significant thing to be doing, I don't think. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Elmer. Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. I'm always intrigued by...on conversations on the floor on debate, as you have...you try to keep something very narrow and very clear, and all of a sudden it just goes off in tangents, and you feel you're losing control, as far as the data, particularly to members of the body who may not have that much interest in the bill but are trying to pick up some of the information to guide them how to vote. Quite honestly, let's get a couple of things straight on the record. You can transfer water now. Some senators have said that no transfers are being made now. Absolutely incorrect. Any industrial or commercial user of water can transfer water, surface water particularly, if they do less than 3,000-acre feet. You don't even need a permit to do that, that's the law now. If I'm a commercial or industrial user of water and I use less than 3,000-acre feet, I do not need a permit. Now if I do more than 3,000-acre feet, I need to get a permit. That's the law. So it does take place and it is going to take place at some point in time. Some of the arguments, Senator Haberman always has fun on my amendments, and one of the things he always tells me, and I believe him, he says, if you have something you really believe in, you've got to work for it. And I appreciate that. And one of the comments I wanted to say to some of the other senators talking was on agriculture, when you're doing a pivot system, are those metered. And the answer is, no, they're not metered. So if Senator Vrtiska, for example, would have a center pivot, how would we know how much water he's actually using if it's not metered, for example? So those are all interesting dialogues, but they take us away from the bill...the amendment. Let me see if I can make very clear the amendment and the narrow purposes