

April 10, 1975

changes of direction of the flow of the water, where the natural flow of water would carry down stream. At the time the Public Works Committee was hearing 108 the one thing that we wanted was retroactive removing such dikes, and embankments, and obstructions from the Platte River which the Corps of Engineers would do. Now in the wisdom of this Legislature they did not make this retroactive. It effects all obstructions, etc. that are placed in the river after this act is in effect. It is now in effect. It probably does prevent improving, maintaining, or doing any work on any dikes that are so located along that river. Now I'm not sure that what I'm telling you would be the legal interpretations of the courts. As we know this bill is only less than a month old. It has not been implemented anywhere. We don't know what the courts are going to say about it. We don't know what the Water Resources Department is going to say, or the Natural Resources Commission. There is the fact of what LB 108 does. This is the fact of what the Corps of Engineers does. If we want to do any work on anything in that river we're going to have to get permission from the State of Nebraska to do it. But we do not, under state law, have to remove that dike from the Platte River and completely destroy intentionally those housing areas. Now on the other hand the intent of this resolution is just as far reaching, that is - is the State of Nebraska a compassionate entity. Is the State of Nebraska willing to sacrifice for small groups of its citizens. I believe this is what I will address. I'll leave 108 to your own discretion. No doubt the State of Nebraska must do something to protect the potential loss of life in that area. We must do something to protect the individual investment that's in that area. We must do it in line with 108. Now whatever type of appropriation would be needed would be of no value whatsoever if the money cannot be spent. Be extremely careful when you vote on this resolution as it is now. I will vote against the resolution as it is now. I would support any way that I possibly can protection of that area. I'm convinced personally that this resolution is offensive to LB 108.

SPEAKER: Chair recognizes Senator Skarda.

SENATOR SKARDA: God bless you. Members of the body and Mr. Chairman, you know I've listened, and listened, and listened. I'm afraid we're a little afield. Although I am in support of the resolution. For several years all I have heard is Buccaneer Bay, and it must be a sacraledge of some kind. Nobody seems to want to file a lawsuit against them. I think this is the action we should proceed on to recover the money that's going to be spent in this project. I'm in wholehearted agreement with the Senators preserving and protecting these people. I do think someone or somehow we've got to institute an action against them to find out just how much power these people got. Are they bigger than the state, or are we gonna let them keep existing. Senator Schmit touched on it pretty well, so did Kelly, but they didn't get to the real point. This is the beginning of something that we should be taking a real hard look at. Here is a developer who went down this river. I'll give you some visual identification of it. There was an island in the river. He come from the South end and dammed it up, so the water diverted over against the North shores. To me, I mean, as far as we're concerned