

particularly since we have gone through these dry seasons that it is apropos now that we start this. We know very well that these projects do not happen overnight. It takes many, many years and it cannot come about without detailed study. We do have an opportunity for a feasibility study that will not directly take a dime out of Nebraska money. It will be done through the Bureau of Reclamation, and to answer further to Senator Lewis' question, in my opinion, this study could very well be a tremendous asset to Senator Kremer and his committee that is looking in deeper into these water problems. The information that is gathered may be extremely helpful to them. The committee, the steering committee that has been set up down in Cass and Otoe Counties have counseled with the Department of Water Resources and they have counseled with the Bureau of Reclamation, Mr. Lewis, who is out in Grand Island. The Natural Resources Commission has been counseled with. Both MRD Districts, the Lower Platte South and the Nemaha, have both endorsed their support of a request for monies for this feasibility study. We met with the Corp of Engineers. We have also met with Mr. Newberger of the Missouri River Basin Commission and he is aware of it so that we are not doing anything without everyone concerned being knowledgeable of what is happening. We met with the Governor last week and the Governor has said that he would support whatever needed to be done to get this study moving forward. Several people from the University of Nebraska have also been counseled. Mr. Sheffield and Mr. Axthelm have been talked to and we have been in contact with every member of our Washington delegation directly and they have pledged their support in whatever area that we need to have them do to approach the Appropriations Committee to get this money appropriated for this feasibility study. This move today, we believe, is extremely important to make Washington realize that our Legislature are concerned about our water problems and are trying to meet them in another way. We do not have these resources in Nebraska, in eastern Nebraska, that other areas of the state do have and we have tapped the streams to some degree which is certainly way inefficient and has caused us further water problems because of the depletion of that stream flow which is part of the problem that we are facing with bills today. I would urge you to support this resolution so that we may get it underway and have more and better information if it is feasible and how far it can go. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: The Chair is going to introduce a very distinguished visitor at the back of the hall here, the acting Governor of the state, Acting Governor Whelan. We welcome you to the Chamber. I know you were lonesome. I hope you are not vetoing any bills today, Acting Governor Whelan. The Chair recognizes Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, just briefly, I would rise to support Senator Carsten in his move for adoption of LR 13. I think, obviously, as he has pointed out, this is only an appraisal study so that the state can have more nearly full knowledge of the potential of this water source as it looks at the total water problems. It would seem to me it is totally compatible with any legislative study that will be on a continuing basis and in no