

January 30, 1979

LB 544

SENATOR KREMER: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, I move the introduction of these bills, one at a time, I imagine. I was aware that the Department of Water Resources was going to request this legislation and I advised them early in the Fall that they should get the request in early so it could be introduced the first ten days and they informed me that they could not unless the incoming new Governor would approve the introduction of the bill. So they had to wait to draft the legislation until it was reviewed by the Governor and his staff. Consequently, they were late getting in so the Public Works Committee did agree to the introduction of these bills. I am just trying to explain why they are late, Mr. Chairman. The first request is Request #784 and I think you have a sheet on your desk, each one of you, that explains the intent of the bill. I will read it. "The intent of this bill is to allow the Director of the Department of Water Resources at his discretion to inspect all dams impounding fifteen acre feet or more of water. As such, the requirement for an annual inspection is eliminated. It would also require all owners or operators of dams to keep their projects in good repair." So it does two things, now under the present law, these dams have to be inspected every year. It is impossible for the Department to carry this out. So this leaves it to the discretion of the Department of Water Resources when these dams shall be inspected. It is the small dam we are talking about. I move for the introduction of the bill.

PRESIDENT: Is there any discussion on the introduction of Request #784? If not, all those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. This will require 30 votes. We are voting on the introduction of bills, new bills, Request #784, Public Works Committee. Have you all voted? Record the vote.

CLERK: 31 ayes, 0 nays on the introduction of the bill, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Motion carries. Read the bill.

CLERK: Mr. President, new bill, LB 544. Read title. (See page 366, Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR KREMER: Again, Mr. Chairman, members, this is another department bill and the intent of the bill is as follows: The intent of the bill is to remove the requirement that all persons must file progress reports on the construction of works to divert water or water power development projects. Now the Department of Water Resources would