

January 30, 1979

LR 9

these branch lines open. Once they are closed I think it will be impossible to get branch lines back into these rural communities and I would like to see it as a state-wide policy that we resist the closing of branch lines across the State of Nebraska and leaving the high energy trucking taking over where the cheaper and much more efficient energywise railroads can still service these communities. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Kahle.

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. President, members of the body, a group of us went to Cincinnati, Ohio, Fort Mitchell, Kentucky, I guess, really, for a transportation conference this last fall or last early winter. Those going were Senator Maresh, Senator Cullan, Senator Dworak and myself and there are some plans in the wind that we may want to consider that would help us with this rebuilding or upgrading of the branch lines so I think we should support this resolution at the time. I know we are going to have problems keeping all the branch lines open in the future but at the moment I would hope that we wouldn't go ahead and close any more until we have had a good chance to work out a solution and perhaps we can come up with something that many of them can be saved. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Any further discussion on LR 9? If not, Senator Maresh, you may close on your resolution.

SENATOR MARESH: Just, Mr. President, this is a very important issue and I think too many times the railroads are taking the easy way out. They don't send the boxcars to the small towns on the branch lines because they want to abandon these branch lines. They may argue that they don't have traffic on the lines but it is because of their refusing to give the small towns the rail cars and I think this is something that needs to be studied nationwide and statewide and I hope that we can adopt this resolution telling ICC not to take any action until the problem is resolved.

PRESIDENT: The motion before the House then is the adoption of LR 9. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Record the vote.

CLERK: 34 ayes, 0 nays on the adoption of the resolution, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Motion passes. LR 9 is adopted. Next resolution is LR 10.