

March 20, 1979

LB 508

lines because without those branch lines we are not moving our agricultural products to market and I wish the railroads would be a little more interested in those branch lines because they seem to be quite happy operating main lines so they get their money but they don't really care too much how those agricultural products do get to those main lines. We have to be concerned about it but the Public Works Committee as Senator Kremer just mentioned also has LB 507. Both bills were heard on the same day and I would like to ask a question of Senator Schmit if he would yield.

PRESIDENT: Senator Schmit, will you respond?

SENATOR GEORGE: Senator Schmit, since both bills, LB 508 and 507 were heard on the same day by the Public Works committee and since both bills pretty much address the same subject matter, the branch line situation, why do you think it is necessary to raise 508 if, as Senator Kremer has explained, 507 is still coming up?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Well of course, Senator George, I think that 508 is like comparing a thoroughbred to a Shetland pony. I think our bill is a little better bill but I have no particular qualms about that. If the Public Works Committee were going to bring 507 out, I would be amenable to allowing 508 to die but I think it is important that we have a bill on the floor and time is wasting and very frankly, I have no pride of authorship and I don't think the committee does but the committee would like to see the bill on the floor because we know that next summer again we are going to hear the hue and cry about all of the problems that are associated with the movement of grain.

SENATOR GEORGE: Okay, thank you, Senator Schmit. Could I ask a question of Senator Kremer? Senator Kremer, what is the status of LB 507? Are we still going to get that on the floor? Could we guarantee to Senator Schmit that LB 507 which obviously your committee proposed to choose among those two, is there some kind of a guarantee that we will debate LB 507 on the floor?

SENATOR KREMER: I would like to answer your question by asking you one? Would you like to be chairman of that committee for a while and try that?

SENATOR GEORGE: Maybe if you need some help I will be happy to.