

May 23, 1979

LB 42

of reasons, enough because I have read the bill and I spent from the first few days that I was elected to the Legislature working on railroad safety problems because I understood that those problems were going to become more severe and I understood that there needed to be some changes and I have worked very diligently as Senator Kremer can tell you in the Public Works Committee for some serious changes in this area and I think I had a good bill in the original draft of LB 42 and I think there are some good concepts in the current draft of LB 42 but there are some problems. Now Senator DeCamp told you about the effective date and Senator DeCamp was sincere but I think he has not thought about the fact that the tax increase that would be generated occurs in July of 1980 but when this bill is signed and if this bill is signed, then all of the other changes in the bill take place at the signing of the bill. Now that means for one thing, that out of the existing grade crossing protection fund which is currently used today for signals and lights, you also take money from that fund to fund overpasses and underpasses. Now the money won't come in for a year or more than a year because the tax is delayed and so that fund which is designed for lights and signals and so forth is going to be used for underpasses and overpasses. Now there is an overpass in North Platte that will cost two or three or four million dollars to build. There are some in Alliance and there are a number of them along the route and those are quickly going to dry up the fund. You have to correlate these things as far as time is concerned and what I am saying is, we may wind up in a situation with this bill where we build one or two overpasses and underpasses and because the funding mechanism is delayed and because the two programs are mixed, we will build one or two overpasses and then the fund will be dried up and we can do nothing else. So I am saying there is some nuts and bolts problems that I see with the bill. There is two interim studies that are going to occur throughout the summer in the Urban Affairs Committee on this subject. I think it is wise and prudent to lay the bill over and to make sure that those problems are worked out. Senator Schmit talked about the number, four copies, four Final Reading versions of LB 42 and it has been amended so many times and so many stages that it must be fine now. Senator Schmit, I don't care if there are a hundred copies of LB 42 in the Final Reading book, I want a bill that is right and especially when my name is on it and I don't feel comfortable right now with some of the small problems that I see in this bill. So I would ask you to lay this bill over, to take it up next year to make sure that there are no problems and so that we do have a good safety crossing program in the State of