

May 6, 1981

LB 375

because it was I felt unfair for me to use the vote that I have in the committee to deny the entire membership of the body the opportunity to discuss and debate and deliberate a bill. Last year, for example, Senator Marst. had a bill in the Urban Affairs Committee about which the City of Lincoln and Lancaster County felt very strongly. The bill had been held up in committee for a long while. I voted to advance the bill. I did not vote for the bill on the floor, but the bill became law. The City of Lincoln and Lancaster County felt very strongly about the bill. I outlined my objections to the bill and my concern with it. They are part of the record. The day may come when my concerns will be vindicated, but at least at the present time Lincoln and Lancaster County have the opportunity to work with a piece of legislation which they felt it was necessary to have. The bill that is introduced by Senator Kremer and myself was not drafted on the spur of the moment. It was not something we drafted casually. It was a bill which reflects compromises on the parts of both of us, a bill which reflects the interests of the Natural Resource Districts, reflects the interests of the cities and the counties and many other groups, and it is a bill which I think gives the Natural Resource Districts another tool and some additional responsibility to use to meet the needs of the State of Nebraska. We have heard for a long period of time the many complaints that nothing has been done about water in Nebraska. Let me tell you that this bill will do something. Now Senator....some of the Senators in this body feel the bill doesn't do as much as they would like to have it do. Others feel it goes farther than they would like to have it go. But that is not unusual in many other instances. You heard me stand on this floor and debate LB 146. It was described by one of my colleagues as a major piece of legislation. I do not feel that it is a major piece of legislation. I do not feel it will make any substantive change in the manner in which we deal with underground water pollution, but if 25 members of this body feel that it will, then they ought to have a right to debate the bill, discuss it on the floor, perhaps amend it to make it a more amenable piece of legislation and something with which we can work in the State of Nebraska. The committee system is a good system and it has worked well. But the committee system when it does not work, should not be allowed to frustrate the entire wishes of this body. There are those who have said both privately and publicly that the bill is not a good bill. Well, I do not take any particular credit for my own efforts in that area, but I think that Senator Kremer would not have put

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