

May 6, 1981

LB 375

his name on a bill which did not make a substantial contribution to the water law for the State of Nebraska. I am not here this morning to debate the merits of the bill. I do not intend to even bring up the subject matter of the bill. What I am asking you for this morning is the right to debate the bill on the floor. I think it is important that this be done. I think it is also equally important and I hope the Chair will not allow the discussion of whether the bill should be raised to degenerate itself into a debate of the bill. It is not fair to those Senators who have bills on Select File this morning which should be heard. This should not take a great deal of time and in effect I am arguing for the advancement of both bills at this time. I intend to take even less time when it comes to LB 527. At this time, ladies and gentlemen, I am asking you to advance to the floor, LB 375 and give the entire body a chance to look at the bill and debate it this session. I do not think you should be misled by those who say we do not have the time. The time is late but the responsibility is substantial. The fact that the bill is still in committee is true because of this reason. Week after week members of the committee assured me that they would attempt to bring the bill to the floor. I did not willfully or enthusiastically offer the motion which bears my name and Senator Kremer's name this morning. It was only after deep consideration that I did so. There are those who suggested we should have an interim study and interim studies are fine, but we do not need to have an interim study on the subject matter of LB 375. That issue is there. It is available for us. The bill can be debated if it gets to the floor. It is, as I said before, a priority bill of the committee on Public Works. The committee chose to make it a priority bill. It is unusual, at the very least, that a bill which the committee chose to make a priority bill cannot secure five votes to get to the floor. As a matter of courtesy to the committee I would think even if members have strong feelings against the bill that they would advance the bill to the floor to allow it to be discussed. I have not categorized it as major legislation but it has been categorized in that manner, and I would hope that you would advance the bill. I am going to ask Senator Kremer to close on the motion....

PRESIDENT: One minute, Senator.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ....so unless there are questions of me, this will be my last word on the motion and I would hope that you will give us the opportunity to discuss the bill