

May 6, 1981

LB 375

this session. I know that if the motion fails the bill is indefinitely postponed. So I ask you to consider that carefully before you vote on the bill. Thank you, members of this body.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I would very...I would like to very strongly urge that you respect the committee position on this bill. I don't think this year yet we have had a bill raised out of committee. We have been very good about respecting our committees and the conclusions they come to, and in my three years in the Public Works Committee there has never been a bill successfully raised out of Public Works Committee, and I think part of the reason for that is that the Public Works Committee under Senator Kremer's leadership has generally worked very long and very hard on the problems that are brought to it. This bill, LB 375, is no exception to that. We have been through five drafts of this bill, five different sets of amendments and still the committee is confused by the complexity of the problems and fearful of the implications of the bill. I suggest to you that it is a possibility that this bill may set back water legislation in this state five to ten years. That is a pretty strong statement but Senator Schmit is right when he says the bill will do something. The question is whether it will do something beneficial for this state or whether the actual mechanics of this bill will only serve to confuse Natural Resource Districts in trying to fulfill their statutory obligations, or whether it will, in fact, help them. You know, generally speaking, the overall thrust in this Legislature is for too many bad bills to get out of committee because it is easy to say to somebody, okay, I will help you get it out of committee even though I can't vote for it on the floor. And much of that goes on as you and I know, probably too much of it. In addition to that, it is possible to amend bills in committee and we let bad bills get out of committee with one or two small amendments. But this bill is difficult to amend because it contains a radical new concept, and either you accept the concept or you don't, and there are not a lot of compromise positions. In addition, it has been easy for water bills to get out of the Public Works Committee because the members of the Public Works Committee have been falling all over themselves to try to get some reasonable, responsible, progressive water legislation. So I hope you all understand that most certainly on the part of everybody in

4575