

May 6, 1981

LB 375

of Commerce and as we surveyed our members, some thousand members in that area, most of them in the city, the number one problem that they wanted the Grand Island area Chamber of Commerce to work on this year was water. It seems to me if an urban area like Grand Island feels that water is the most important problem, it certainly must be the most important problem for the State of Nebraska, for Lincoln and for Omaha and for all the cities in this state. For that reason it seems to me we ought to discuss this bill and the following bill on this floor, have input from those of us who have been interested in water for many, many years and rather than just limiting that input at this point to those Senators who represent only city areas who have apparently, it appears to me as I hear the discussion on this floor, have kept this bill from coming to the floor. I would urge your support to move the bill to the floor.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Vickers.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President and members, I rise to oppose this motion and I agree with Senator Schmit that I think the discussion this morning should be based on the motion and not on the bill, but I can't believe that the Chairman of a committee or some of the committee members would indicate the committee structure is not... shouldn't be strengthened and instead should be weakened, and it seems to me that that is what we are doing on this floor of this Legislature. You know, at the start of this session we had a long discussion about limitation of bills, whether or not we should be limited to X number of bills that each member should introduce. Part of that discussion was based on the fact that we had too much to do. There are too many bills that get out here on the floor and too little time to discuss it. Obviously, one of the reasons that that happens is because there are not enough bills killed in committees or kept in committee. The committee structure many times works in a fashion that...and I am sure you are all aware of this, there is no need in hiding about it behind anybody's back, we are not going to kill good old so and so's bill in committee, we will go and advance it for him, we will let him discuss it on the floor. Well, I don't think that is the way this body should operate. The committee structure should be strengthened, not weakened, and if eight members of a committee cannot agree, the majority of eight members cannot agree on a piece of legislation, I don't think it is asking....I think it is asking too much to ask the majority of 49 of us to agree, particularly when it is a major piece of legislation that the committee