

May 6, 1981

LB 375

PRESIDENT: Thank you. The Chair recognizes Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Mr. President and fellow Senators, I really got a lesson this morning. I just called the President and I said, Mr. President, are we debating this bill or are we debating bringing it to the floor? And he said, well, I guess they feel that if they don't get a chance to explain their positions, they will feel that they aren't being heard properly. Now, on 375, you know, I haven't made up my mind one way or the other whether I want to hear it or not, but I wasn't given a choice. I heard the arguments for it this morning and I think Senator Schmit or whoever it was that put this on the agenda to bring it out of committee has given us the advantage of hearing part of the arguments for and against LB 375. So I find it hilarious that those who said, don't let's bring it to the floor have done that, and I would hope that so that we could get on with the rest of the legislation, both sides have now been heard and maybe somebody could call the question and everybody would feel that we have heard both sides and now we will decide if we want to bring it to the floor. But I really appreciate all the knowledge I have gained in the last half hour or so on the bill that wasn't going to be discussed. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Kahle. Is Senator Kahle in the Chamber? We will go on then to Senator Warner. Senator Warner waives his discussion. Senator Beutler, I guess we are back going around the second time. We have several that want to speak the second time so we are going around the second time.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I understand that some of you will make your decision on this based on how you feel about the committee system, whether you are comfortable with the committee system or whether you are not, and that will be the sole basis for your deciding whether to raise this out of committee or not to. But others of you will make your decision based on what you think is in the bill and whether you think there is something in the bill that should be discussed as Senator Cope indicated, and, therefore, I feel the necessity to discuss what is in the bill and whether there is any point at this point in time to spending the Legislature's time on the material contained in the bill. I think, as Senator Hoagland has explained, that this bill takes away from the Natural Resource Districts some of their current tools for dealing