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LB 118

any problem with the basic concept of the interstate compact on barge traffic, but did this bill have a public hearing?

SENATOR MARESH: Well, Senator Dworak, the original bill did on unemployment compensation but as you know the only way we could get that extended would be to have a bill that had a sponsor that would sponsor the bill as a priority bill and Senator Hefner did have this bill as his priority and he agreed to allow us to use his bill to get this extended. Randy Moody who is head of the Missouri River Marketing Office in Omaha called my attention that we may have problems to get the compact completed and I would hate to see going through all the work of starting a new compact. This would allow us to extend the final date so they could get in compliance...so Kansas could get in compliance during the next session. There's a lot of interest in Kansas, although they adjourned too early to complete the legislation.

SENATOR DWORAK: So if I understand you, Senator Mares, we had a public hearing on a bill that had something to do with unemployment compensation insurance. We advertised that bill and the public came and gave testimony pro and con on unemployment compensation. But now we have got a bill going across the floor of the Legislature that has absolutely nothing to do with unemployment compensation but barge traffic. Is that correct?

SENATOR MARESH: Well, yes, but it isn't such earthshaking legislation, it's just extending something that the Legislature approved I think with a 47 vote or something like that last year, so there was no opposition to this compact last year and nobody appeared in opposition to the bill when we enacted the compact and had the hearing on the barge compact bill. So I don't think it is controversial legislation that requires a hearing. It's just extension of the deadline. That's all it does.

SENATOR DWORAK: I have one other question, Senator Mares. If you were aware, and I know you are following this very closely, that this legislation was necessary and needed this year, why would you not have introduced a bill on this subject matter and gone through the normal legislative process and designated it as your priority bill?

SENATOR MARESH: Because the Senator in Kansas that was working with me thought that they could get it through but they ran into problems getting it completed in the House and the Senate passed it but not the House. So that