

March 4, 1982

LB 631

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Hefner. We don't have a lot of time on the bill, and I would like to take a vote on this amendment and then the bill. This is the last amendment.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President, I will be brief. I just want to rise to oppose this amendment. This body did hold a study on it several years ago and we had a bill and at that particular time we thought it was not wise to do this and so now Senator Fowler has presented an amendment to us on this bill that would do this. And, of course, I think this is wrong. I think if he wants to have another study on it, or introduce a bill next session, this would be fine, and then we could have both sides of the issue at the hearing and present their cases and go from there. And so, therefore, I would just like to ask this group to oppose this amendment at this particular time.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President, I will also be brief. I just want to correct, I believe, an impression left by Senator Fowler that the money had been going to the school funds. It has been my information, I may be wrong, but I do not think so, that the funds have always remained with the tracks and that only my amendment which clarified the language and the intent of the Legislature several years ago, continued that practice when there was some doubt as to where they might belong. I think that it is kind of ironic, on the one hand we are here today enacting a bill which will...or hopefully enacting a bill to save the small tracks on the one hand, and on the other hand we take the money out of the same pocket. This bill will cost Atokad about \$11,000. It will cost Columbus \$14,700 out of that \$17,000 profit, which Columbus had last year. It will cost Aksarben \$160,000. They might possibly be able to stand it, but then it will come back at us some other way I am sure. Fonner, it will cost them \$23,500 and Lincoln about \$43,000. I suggest that the process is fair the way it is. I think that if you, as Senator Hefner has said, that there seems to be a problem here, that it ought to be introduced as a bill and it ought to be discussed and debated before the proper committee. The question will come, why did you put the amendment in? I put the amendment in to counteract an action, well intentioned, that would take the funds away, that it had to be legislative intent. I expressed that in my amendment that was upheld by the Legislature and hopefully at this you will reject the Fowler amendment. Thank you very much.

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