

Dakota City, clear down to Homer. It is about 25 miles to get down there. A couple of years ago, there was one child on one of these properties and that school district had to contract with South Dakota for its services, and given the amount of taxes they collected, it was very definitely a costly situation for them to have those services provided in South Dakota rather than in Nebraska. So with that, I offer the legislation, and like I say, I expect Senator Wehrbein will have a comment or two.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Wehrbein, please.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. Speaker and members, I thought I would enlarge a little bit upon what the Boundary Commission has done. I was appointed to the Boundary Commission about a year ago. There are several of us serving across the state appointed by the Governor. We did meet in February with the South Dakota Boundary Commission over in the State Office Building and signed an agreement. I thought I would go over that just briefly. The center line of the river no longer coincides with the one that was the 1905 compact, so we established a new boundary based on the present center line of the river, and as Senator Conway said, this is very stable now. This is probably one of the few areas up in that area that is stable. Beyond that it is not, but in this area it is stabilized by the Corps of Engineers and so should remain stable. The agreement is intended to be an interstate compact recommendation to the legislative bodies of Nebraska and South Dakota. That is what we did as Boundary Commission members. Its ratification is intended as a necessary first step in striving for interstate comity. It is understood subsequent adoption of a compact by the states must be followed by U.S. Congressional ratification. So I want you to understand clearly that this is recommending to Congress to establish this designated boundary. It is not the commissioners' intent to settle disputes of ownership for certain tracts of land. This is simply transferring the boundary, putting that that is now in Nebraska back into South Dakota based on how the river had changed. We have had Mike Jess, as you may know, is Chairman of the Missouri Boundary Commission. He and his staff have verified all of the statements that we will be making. State Surveyor, Jim Brown, has been involved, and also serves on that commission. We have, as Senator Conway said, this has been approved by the South Dakota Legislature, and we are seeking, then, agreement from the Nebraska Legislature to send this off to Congress. This will not take effect until ratified by