

think the Game and Parks does a very good job of it. And recreation, it's a natural for Game and Parks as that is their business. So I think Senator Beutler has taken a comprehensive look at the way this can be done and involved all the people that should be involved, and I think it's a good attempt by Senator Beutler to do the correct thing on protecting our rivers and allowing the input from the locals and also the statewide perspective. I would hope you would support Senator Beutler's amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Morrissey. Before we continue, I would like to introduce some guests of Senator Dierks. We have 48 fourth graders and their teachers from Neligh-Oakdale School in Oakdale, Nebraska. Would you folks please stand and be welcomed by the Legislature. Thanks for being with us. Senator Schmit, your light is on. Did you wish to speak?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Only briefly, Mr. President. I would suggest that Senator Beutler has a rather extensive amendment and that to adopt this amendment at this time would be doing exactly that which we do not like to do and that is to adopt language which is not understood, which is not well explained and which I believe would be more, much more far-reaching than we would do otherwise. I think that the Lamb plan is a better procedure at this time and, again, can't disagree with some of what Senator Conway says. But as I understand, the federal legislation did not address the entire river either, only one short segment of that river. Is that not true, Senator Lamb? Is it true, Senator Lamb, that the federal scenic river designation only applied to a certain segment of the river and did not, in fact, apply to the entire river?

SENATOR LAMB: That's correct. It's a 76-mile strip of the Niobrara River.

SENATOR SCHMIT: So we really have contradicting situations here. On the one hand, Senator Conway, and justifiably so, says we should look at the entire process. On the other, we know that we have not done so as a state and that we will not do so because we will not appropriate the funds necessary to do so. Number three, the feds have taken it upon themselves not to study the entire river, as Congresswoman Smith and Congressman Barrett proposed to do, but to pick out a 76-mile stretch of the river and say this is the scenic area. If, in fact, Senator