

line in what the stockholders are able to get from the stock in the C&NW, or be it the Union Pacific, or be it the Burlington Railroad. I had the same example in my area when they discontinued the branch line to Ord, Nebraska, the branch line to Stapleton, Nebraska, the same thing. They have no interest in keeping that line up. In fact, actually they let it deteriorate so the service gets a little worse. On the other hand, I have a real problem in the knowledge forcing all of this onto the highways. Just to travel from Greeley, Nebraska, to Grand Island, Nebraska, now and see what it has done to the highways and the cutting out of the roads and the impossible opportunity to meet on the hills and so on. But I think you are kind of kidding yourselves when you think that the railroad has any other interest in, and probably that is the way they should operate, and that is to provide a profitable line. And this is just one more step that I suppose maybe a changing world, but I will support you in any way I can, but I am not so sure that the state or anyone else can operate the line any cheaper than what the railroad themselves could.

SENATOR WARNER PRESIDING

SENATOR WARNER: Seeing no further lights, Senator Lamb, do you wish to close on advancing the bill, or Senator Wickersham? Senator Lamb, do you wish to close? Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Thank you, Mr. President. Just briefly, again to recapitulate, this bill is about tools. This bill is about tools, tools for us to continue to negotiate with the C&NW and, hopefully, arrive at a solution that does not cost the state dollars to prevent the abandonment of the line from Norfolk to Chadron. The impact, the brief fact sheet that was distributed to you shows that abandonment of the line can have significant adverse economic impacts. We very much need to move the bill forward so that we can continue to negotiate and, hopefully, come back to you later with a report that says our negotiations were completely successful. All we need is the \$1,260 that would be called for in the A bill as amended, and everyone will have deemed this experiment, as Howard puts it, a great success. Thank you.

SENATOR WARNER: The motion is to advance LB 783 to E & R Initial. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Clerk will record.