

April 18, 1991

LB 409

LR 27

every single bill Schmit brings up. Senator Morrissey switched his position on the bill LB 409, made a mistake. He can correct that this afternoon. He can't correct this mistake if he continues to make it time and again. Senator Smith, you want to say a few words? Have at it.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Senator Schmit, and I'm not going to waste any time because I probably don't have too much time left.

SPEAKER BAACK: Time is up on Senator Schmit's time.

SENATOR SMITH: Oh, is it? Is it?

SPEAKER BAACK: Yes, it is.

SENATOR SMITH: All right, I'll see if I get the time then.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Rod Johnson is next. I don't see Senator Rod Johnson. We'll go to Senator Schrock.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, Senator Morrissey, I don't understand what water quality has to do with this. If we run the river like it was run before Kingsley Dam, it's like a bathroom stool, you flush it in the spring, come July it's all gone. It all goes down the drain. We want to regulate the river so there is water in the river all the time. That's what helps the Grand Island well field. If the river goes dry, nitrates get into their well system. We want water in that river all the time for Grand Island. That way it will keep the nitrates out of the well field. Grand Island's well field is in the middle of the river. That's where...they pump it five, six miles north to the City of Grand Island because the water around there, the nitrates are too high. If you dry up the river, then you don't have clean water in Grand Island and the Lincoln water system depends on water in the river all the time. You take away Kingsley Dam, that's the only way we have of regulating the North Platte River in Nebraska, or at least it's the major way. We've got reservoirs in Wyoming, but all the return flows from them go to Kingsley Dam. We don't take any water out of the Platte River and send it to another watershed. It stays in the Platte River. It comes down the creek by my house and goes into the Platte River after I use it to irrigate with. Can I use that water first before we send it down the river? I would hope so because the economy of the State of Nebraska would be in sad shape. We're