

June 4, 1991

LB 773, 783

having been complied with, the question is, shall LB 773 pass? All those in favor please vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Please record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: (Read record vote. See page 2844 of the Legislative Journal.) 40 ayes, 3 nays, 3 present and not voting, 3 excused and not voting, Madam President.

PRESIDENT MOUL: LB 773 passes. LB 783.

CLERK: Madam President, Senator Kristensen would move to return LB 783 to Select File for specific amendment, the amendment being to strike the enacting clause.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Kristensen.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body. Before we embark on what may be a real monumental policy choice, and that is the purchasing of an abandoned or soon to be abandoned railroad, I think it's important that we visit this area little bit and make one last discussion. Through committee I listened to the testimony, and I'd have to say the compelling testimony of the northern part of our state and their sincere desire to keep this railroad and some of the overriding considerations that are there for keeping it, economic survival, identity of the area, to keep the shippers going, to keep the farming interest, to keep the small towns alive and well. That room was filled full of some of the most sincere people that I've ever seen here at the Legislature in the desire and the unity that they have, not just for their individual community, but all up and down that line, and for that entire area of the state. And I was hesitant because something kept nagging at me that we hadn't got this done. I mean the purpose is good, the purpose is the right purpose. The purpose is one that any one of us, in fact, all of us probably at one time or another as this state grows and goes into the next century that rail lines, particularly the smaller, light density lines, light density in terms of how it's constructed, its traffic and so on, but that we're all going to face. And somewhere through this whole process it's been...we just get to one more stage because we're negotiating, we get to one more stage of debate because we're just about there. And if we can just keep hanging on the railroad isn't going to abandon that line. And somewhere down the line, or down the track maybe is a more appropriate analogy this morning, we're going to have to start to get a little