

January 23, 1992 LB 49, 661

SENATOR SCHMIT: As I indicated earlier, the reason for the bill was pinpointed when FERC directed that water be released from Lake McConaughy to provide certain specific flows for protection of wildlife. And it was apparent to me and apparent to others, particularly to Central Power, that even though water were released, and also to NPPD, if water were released for a specific purpose there was no way that it could be protected from some other utilization. It is difficult enough, of course, to release that water in the hot summer period of time and hope that it gets to the point that it is supposed to arrive at to achieve the purpose for which it was intended without having it diverted to some other use. I do not, at this time, want to debate the issue as to whether or not the water should be released. I think you all know pretty well where I stand on that. But if it's going to be released then I think it's in the best interest of all that there be this type of authority to try to protect the water from appropriation for some other use. And, therefore, I would hope that the bill would be advanced as amended.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Schmit. Anyone wishing to discuss the advancement of LB 49? Seeing no one, Senator Schmit, do you wish to close?

SENATOR SCHMIT: I waive closing.

SPEAKER BAACK: Waives closing. We will now vote on the advancement of LB 49. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 33 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of LB 49.

SPEAKER BAACK: LB 49 is advanced. LB 497, at the request of the introducer, will be passed over, and we will go to LB 661.

CLERK: Mr. President, 661 was a bill introduced by Senator Rod Johnson. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 23 of last year, at that time referred to Natural Resources, advanced to General File. I have no amendments pending, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Rod Johnson.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the