

February 7, 1992 LB 899

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Dierks. Senator Nelson.

SENATOR NELSON: Yes, Madam Speaker. I, too, have the same reservations as Senator Lamb. This taking of wetlands, I am very, very cautious in granting the Corp of Engineers, we may, any more authority than they have now. If you ask me, they have about ten times too much authority and we are just at their mercy. And it is just unique, you can take wetlands here, and if you can place them over there a mile and half, you satisfied the purpose. It really doesn't even make, well, common sense. I am not going to talk the bill to death because I know we only have fifteen minutes, and I would support Senator Lamb's motion because, to me, it is just too open-ended and I guess, frankly speaking, I don't trust them, really.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Nelson. Senator Kristensen.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Senator Nelson, I am not sure I know who you don't trust here. This doesn't expand or extend the Army Corps of Engineers in any manner. What this is, if a bill like this doesn't get passed, you are going to have roads and primarily provisions that Senator Lamb is complaining about are in there for the benefit of rural Nebraska because they are the roads and the problems that you have. And so if there are roads in the State of Nebraska aren't going to be built, they are going to be in Senator Lamb's District and the other rural districts because that is where the wetland problems occur. If you don't have the statutory authority to do it, there are going to be a lot of rural roads that just plain aren't going to get built, or those projects are going to get tied up. If this expanded the Army Corps' powers, it would be another issue. I would agree with you, Senator Nelson, a hundred percent, but the real purpose for doing this is to assist in some rural roads that have some wetlands problems. So if Senator Lamb wants to put the amendment up here, we will probably run out of time. The ones that will suffer will be the rural roads, and I guess that is where we will have to leave it at this point. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Kristensen. Does anyone else wish to speak to the amendment? Seeing none, do you have closing, Senator Lamb?

SENATOR LAMB: Well, thank you. Thank you, Madam Chair.