

February 10, 1992 LB 349

the next speaker, I would like to introduce some guests. They are guests of Senator Elmer and they're actually residents of my legislative district. They are Mr. and Mrs. Bill Siegel from Morrill, Nebraska and they are under the south balcony. Would you folks please stand and be welcomed by the Legislature. Thank you for being with us. Senator Schellpeper, you're next.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members, I would like to ask Senator Rogers a question, if I might.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Rogers, would you respond, please.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Would you explain why the Department of Ag was actually taken out as the lead agency and that DEC was actually put in here now as the agency?

SENATOR ROGERS: Probably one of the answers, Senator, would be some feelings of two or three of the senators in here. It still doesn't change the bottom line. They just...they wanted it that way. The Department of Ag is still the lead agency, Senator.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Well, but still the rules and the whole plan will be written and implemented by DEC, according to the amendment, right?

SENATOR ROGERS: The plans will be wrote by them but I think you should realize that, first of all, that we foresee statewide meetings probably next summer to help write the plan and also this body, Senator Schellpeper, still has to approve those plans, and I have confidence in this body.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: I do like that amendment and that is something, I think, that had to be made part of this amendment, is that the Legislature still will have the final approval. And, I guess, if we don't have the votes today to approve it, we may not have the votes to get it the way we would want it next year either. So that doesn't really make any difference, but at least the Legislature will have the final approval. So I do like that part of it. Also, is this something that has to be done this year, Senator Rogers?

SENATOR ROGERS: There...there will be a deadline, there's no doubt about it, I mean though Senator Schmit will probably disagree with us. I have the feeling that they will come down and run this program if we don't do something and we know some