

February 12, 1992 LB 306

right is surrendered, it will never be recovered. If the bill moves today to Select File, I've not had a chance to speak to Senator Beutler about this, but if it should move to Select File, I would hope that we would let it lay there for a period of time until all of us, both rural and urban, can get together and work out amendments which are protection for the urban dweller and their right and their need for a water supply and yet recognize the needs of agriculture because I want to emphasize, I cannot overemphasize to those of you who come from rural Nebraska that each time, each time we reorganize this Legislature every 10 years, agricultural influence necessarily is less and the interests of agriculture become more difficult to protect. I have to just comment upon what I heard this morning as I was driving into the city. The emphasis is being placed in Omaha on the Buy Omaha program and a businessman from Omaha called me and said, Loran, I hope you don't take that wrong. He said, I know...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...most people in Omaha know that it's the livestock and crops of corn and wheat that is raised in Nebraska that sustains Omaha. He said if we just trade back and forth among ourselves Omaha is not going to survive very long and it certainly will not prosper. He said even as substantial an industry as ConAgra, without the livestock and grain products of the farmers, would not be a sustainable industry for Omaha. So it's easy to talk about buying Omaha or buying Columbus or buying Bellwood I suppose, but we know that we are an overall entity. We are an integrated economy and we simply cannot ignore each other. We need to get along, we need to cooperate and I've said if many times, I don't think there is anyone on this floor who wants to jeopardize the rights of other individuals to live and exist and prosper in this state, but if we move the bill, if we do decide that it needs to be...

SPEAKER BAACK: Time.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...advanced at this time, then I would hope that before it moves off Select File we can agree upon more specific amendments than the ones which Senator Beutler offered us here today.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Schmit. While the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business, I