

February 12, 1992 LB 306

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Beutler, would you respond to a question, please.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Yes, sir.

SENATOR ROBINSON: What control does the State of Nebraska have over the Missouri River as far as this is concerned, as far as the bill is concerned? Do we have any control as far as the water flow as the Missouri is concerned?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Certainly our control over the Missouri River is much more limited because it's used in interstate commerce and I believe it is generally controlled by the Corps of Engineers and the federal government and I can't tell you generally speaking whether we have many rights at all. Certainly they are rights that need to be negotiated with the federal government in surrounding states. I guess if you ask me a specific question I would get the answer for you, Senator Robinson.

SENATOR ROBINSON: I guess my concern is that Blair has a quite large water system that comes out of the Missouri and there has been a lot of talk about expanding it up to Tekamah, Herman and so forth and there is a lot of irrigation along the Missouri River and you know, you can see you could have an impact there especially if the flow in the Missouri River was quite low and I guess you know if you had a problem, what would be the procedure in that case?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay, let me look into that. I don't know enough in that area to give you a clear answer, but that is an interesting question.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Yeah, because if you had to cut down water for a couple of communities and so forth, so I'd appreciate it. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Next speaker is Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. Speaker and members, Senator Beutler, I will have some more questions and I just...to suffice it to say I'm a little uncomfortable with what we're doing without...I want to understand it better, but my main question at this point is, if we take your amendment which as read that the water of every natural stream and so forth, and ends up