

boundary commissions unfolded I begin to see that meaningful negotiation had, that I had hoped for, was not happening. But rather than negotiation, I would describe the development of LB 719 as follows. I go out and I find the keys to Senator Stuhr's car and I put them in the keyhole and they fit. Then I'm starting up the car and getting ready to drive off and she comes out and says, that's my car, and I respond, no, it's my car because I have the keys, and she says, okay, and so she lets me drive it off. To me, that's what 719 does. It lets Missouri takes Nebraska's land simply because they claim its theirs and certainly not because they have any necessary legal justification to do that. When the negotiation process between the two commissions was completed, our boundary commission had agreed to Missouri's proposal of drawing the boundary line down the middle of the Missouri River, making Missouri happy. The... they agreed to have Missouri pay for the cost of surveying the area, which made our state, I would imagine, made our state surveyor happy, and by coming to agreement they basically dealt with an issue of double taxation to make a few landowners in question along the river happy. But what they forgot was that the problem the agreement would cause...which would cause trouble with a lot of the taxpayers in southeast Nebraska in the district that I serve. The proposed agreement in LB 719 would cost the Nebraska tax-paying subdivisions along the river, in that area we're talking about, over 40,000 dollars annually and this loss of revenue is going to be spread over the remaining taxpayers in basically two counties, Nemaha and Richardson. I warned our boundary commission that providing some sort of compensation would be crucial to the acceptance of any agreement by the people of southeast Nebraska. However, the Missouri members...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR VRTISKA: ...members claimed that there were legal reasons why they wouldn't compensate Nebraska as part of the settlement and, rather than our commission members questioning their claim, they, with exception of Senator Wehrbein, failed to pursue the compensation issue any further. I firmly believe that if our boundary commission had aggressively pursued the issue of compensation and come up with something that we could live with the bill could have been advanced and passed, but that's not what happened, so I believe the process by which LB 719 was developed was not an effective one and did not produce an effective solution to the problem. You have to