

St. Stephen the Martyr School in Omaha, and their teachers. They're in the north balcony. Would you all stand and be welcomed by your Legislature. Thank you for being with us. Mr. Clerk, do you have an amendment to the amendment?

CLERK: Madam President, the first amendment to the committee amendments that I have is by Senator Klein. Senator, I have AM3708 in front of me. (Amendment may be found on pages 1160-61 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Klein, to open on your amendment.

SENATOR KLEIN: Thank you, Madam Chairman and fellow legislators. I've introduced this amendment to draw attention to the waste of funds caused by our own Game and Parks Commission that had to be spent by a group of natural resource districts and irrigation districts through the center part of this great state. By the Game and Parks' stubbornness to be willing to negotiate minimum in-stream flow rights, they caused these public bodies to spend about \$400,000 in legal expenses to fight against a part of our government who spent something close to 300,000 on the same issue. This issue reaches far deeper than just fish and wildlife. It affects economic development. It affects the economy of the whole state by stopping irrigation. This is a state where many, many people are employed by manufacturing plants in Valley, Lindsay, Deshler, Gering, and Hastings, as well as other cities making irrigation equipment. Agriculture is still the exporting king of the United States, and Nebraska grains are considered the premier product worldwide because of our irrigation. We had the only steel mill in Nebraska give second thoughts to expanding their operation in Nebraska because of the Game and Parks Commission. Their cooling wells were to be drilled in the Spring Creek bottom, which is part of the Elkhorn River basin, which empties into the Platte. So these kind of things... We have...the Department of Economic Development in this state does a real good job. But with the Game and Parks we have a Department of Economic "Destruction". Maybe they're promoting the trails issue so people can walk out of this state and never come back. Two years have been devoted in drafting of 108 with the amendments from the Natural Resources Committee. Game and Parks Commission had agreed to a compromise on the minimum in-stream flows, but now it seems that they've changed their minds. To me this is one more example of state employees out of control. I