

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

February 28, 2000 LB 1394

entered into the discussion. And certainly some local officials...some local people have put pressure on the county board to not allow this project to be built. Somewhere along the line there's been some bad blood here between the two entities. And I find it very interesting that even the Lower Platte NRD certainly does not have unanimous support of their board. I don't remember, Senator Beutler, what the exact number of board members are on that NRD, but it's somewhere in the teens, 15, 18 in there, and there's about 5 members voting against it. I guess I would just encourage Glenn Johnson and the Cass County Commissioners to try to resolve this issue without it coming to the Legislature. I have found in my brief stint in the Legislature that county boards become very protective of their authorities, and they kind of say leave us alone, don't mess with us. If you talk about inheritance tax, you...you...you all of a sudden have every county board member in your legislative district after you. Senator Beutler, you're maybe fortunate. I don't know how many commissioners there are in Lancaster County, but I have 30 supervisors and commissioners in my legislative district; I think I heard from 29 of them. I'd like to think that didn't influence my vote when I did vote to IPP this bill. But that doesn't end the controversy, we still have a problem. And I pledge to you that I will work with you to resolve that issue. I would like to go on site; I would like to have Glenn Johnson and the county board members there to explain to me why this last dam and the largest dam is not being built, and why in the world would they allow the first 18 to be built? And why did the NRD not have this resolved before they built the first dam? A lot of questions here. As I said, Senator Beutler, I'm not unsympathetic to what you're trying to do today. Probably this was the wrong vehicle, and maybe something can be done. I really think, if it isn't resolved between now and next January, we can take another look at this issue and see what should be done and I would pledge to you my help on that. I'm not unsympathetic to what you want to do here. But to give county boards or the NRDs...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: One minute.

SENATOR SCHROCK: ...the ability to have condemnation power over counties probably is not appropriate at this time, and that's the reason the legislative bill was IPPed. If you have any