

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

April 11, 2006 LB 1113

with any objections. We did not hear any objections on General File. Select File with an omnibus bill such as this is not the appropriate time, particularly two days before the end of session. Senator Schrock and Senator Mines need to work out an agreement on this; otherwise, there are a number of bills that are being jeopardized. The other bill that I have that is being jeopardized by this is a bill in regards to foreign nationals. The state of Nebraska was sued because of improper procedure of children of a foreign national. The Department of Health and Human Services entered into an agreement, what's called a memorandum of understanding, with the Mexican government based on an international treaty that the United States government signed. We have taken that memorandum of understanding to include all children from all countries. All it is is a protocol to follow so the state is not sued again, so children are treated fairly and equally inside the system, regardless of their nationality, so they are given equal rights. I know Senator Howard has a bill under this, also. We need to stop and look at what we are jeopardizing by all of the amendments on this bill. LB 1113 needs to move from Select File today. Thank you very much.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Cornett. Senator Jensen, followed by Senator Schrock.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, members of the Legislature and thank you, Mr. President. I served on the Papio NRD four years before coming to the Legislature here, and before the NRD does anything, before they do any dam, before they do any improvements, before they spend any public funds, they have a public hearing. Now are we going to interfere in that process of the public hearing, where people have the right to come and to express whatever concerns they may have, whether it be public access, whether it be design problems, whatever it is? And I think that we do have a problem when we start interfering with other public entities. Certainly, the situation in Bennington is a tremendous asset. It's an asset to the community, it's an asset to everyone that lives around it, and the tax base that is generated there is tremendous. And yes, there was a public hearing prior to that construction ever going into effect. Now we have a circumstance here where, yes, we have but few hours