

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

April 11, 2006 LB 1113

coming that might make the bill acceptable. It is not my desire to stop the contents of LB 1113. I would even argue that this is a different subject matter, but I might lose on that. But it is a different subject matter. So for those of you who are concerned about the overlying bill, so am I. I want it to pass. But I don't want to stop all flood control projects in the Omaha area, because I think it's important. I think it's very important. The Natural Resources Committee toured that area, and I'll stick by my numbers on Bennington. It's a \$60 million project. The public has \$3 million invested in flood control, and that's it. But there's \$17 million worth of flood control projects, and there is a lot of recreation. There is boating on the lake above it. They furnished a site for the Bennington school. There's a park, there's trails, there's a lot of public recreation. But they wouldn't have been able to sell the lots, and it was not built by the NRDs. It was built by a private developer, and \$3 million of public money was used for flood control. So I've tried to be accommodating, and I'm sorry at this late hour, but I don't know what to do. But I guarantee if you pass this...and by the way, the Papio NRD is adamantly opposed to this portion of the bill. If you pass this, you're going to be back next year to correct it, because there will be no further work on flood control projects in the Omaha area. And I would remind you, you're paving almost four square miles a year up there, and if you think water soaks into pavement, I can guarantee it doesn't. It runs off, and it causes flood problems. So I don't want to kill LB 1113. But come to me and tell me what you'll do. I've tried, and it hasn't worked. All I hear is we'll go to the wall, and go negotiate with somebody else. I can't negotiate with myself on this one, or I would. So there is the dilemma. This is a bad bill. The NRDs oppose it. The Papio NRD opposes it. I'm 200 miles from Lincoln...or Omaha. I guess I shouldn't care. I've stayed out of the debate on the school thing. I even answered a question this morning from Senator Fischer I wasn't too glad to answer. I have three grandchildren going to a Class I school. So here's our dilemma. What do we do? Senator Mines compromises, fine. Haven't seen a willingness to do that. Amend this out of the bill, fine. We'll move on. But I can tell you, I've tried. My problem is, I didn't see it coming on General File. We do strange things in the final days of the legislative session. Nine bills in that