

February 24, 1984

LB 1059

try and explain the bill to you. This bill extends the time for execution by the Governor of a compact relating to the promotion of commercial navigation on the Missouri River from July 1, 1984 to July 1, 1987. With this compact, we feel we could increase the barge traffic on the Missouri River. At the present time, agriculture and other commodities and farm products are shipped down the river, such as, corn, soybeans, alfalfa pellets, tello, and many others. We also bring fertilizer and molasses and other commodities up the Missouri. Barges are a cheap form of transportation. Many small towns in eastern Nebraska have lost their railroads. Many farmers are trucking their grain to terminals along the Missouri and shipping the grain by barge to the Gulf for overseas shipment. Or some use it to ship their grain to the southern states for livestock and poultry feed. Another need of this compact is to stand united. I understand that we need about 30,000 cubic feet per second of water released at Gavin's Point for barge traffic. By having a four state compact, we would have more power to see that this was carried out by the Corp of Engineers. From time to time, we do have a shortage of rail cars to ship grain. Thus, increased barge traffic would alleviate this. And this bill would just extend the time from July 1, 1984 to July 1, 1987 for a Governor, for our Governor to enter into a Missouri River barge compact. Mr. Chairman, I move for the advancement of LB 1059.

PRESIDENT: Chair recognizes Senator Vickers.

SENATOR VICKERS: Wonder if Senator Hefner would respond to a question, please.

SENATOR HEFNER: Certainly.

SENATOR VICKERS: Senator Hefner, I had an occasion over the weekend to visit with a representative from the Missouri House who has been interested and active in this Missouri barge compact and was told by this representative that there were two bills in the Nebraska Legislature dealing with the Missouri compact and that the language of all the acts in the various states had to be, if not exactly the same, at least very closely to the same. And I've done