

April 9, 1984

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that the bill was not more strenuously debated on General File. I certainly would have been pleased to have done so. I think the freeze-out that occurred on General File was no doubt organized by the opponents of the bill and they hoped that the thing would just quietly die and go away. I want to point out that the Department of Roads did not testify in opposition of the bill. They testified at the hearing and testified very positively as far as I was concerned. The Department of the Nebraska Safety Patrol did not testify against the bill. The Department of Roads must approve any kind of an approach to that interstate highway. They must approve the staging area. They can prescribe limits. They can do all those things that are necessary to allay the fear that Senator Beutler has described. They can totally eliminate the two lane highway traffic if they so choose and that would, of course, be the normal thing to do. I placed the six mile limit in there because that was from Seward, Nebraska. I would have readily accepted a staging area right off the interstate if Senator Beutler had proposed it. He did not do so and I would remind the body again the Department has total discretion as to how it is to be handled. I want to say also it is amazing to me, I think Senator Warner described the opposition to the bill on the bases of highway safety better than I could the last time. I will not repeat his description. I think you all recall it. It is amazing to me that the opponents of this bill including the major newspapers have consistently acted as though the movement of about 100 units of this system from Seward to the Colorado line is a threat to the safety and health of Nebraska citizens and not once have they ever mentioned the fact that last year the Department of Roads issued 8,275 permits for mobile homes and modular homes to travel over that interstate system, many of them wider than the 8 feet that are allowed in the trailer. It is interesting to me that there is no mention of that. I think that the mobile and the modular home business is good for Nebraska. Obviously, the homes built in one location need to be transported to the place of use. No one on this floor has ever suggested that we deny the right of the mobile home manufacturers to move those units. Many of the units wider, longer, higher, whatever the length you want to describe are granted special permits under the discretion of the

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