

March 20, 1979

LB 508

concerned about this problem because they have also introduced LB 507 which addresses the problem in a little different way. If I knew for certain that 507 were going to come to the floor I would not be offering this motion this morning but I do not know that. I have not been assured that it will come to the floor. I have no way of knowing if the problem will be addressed unless we address it in this manner and so that is why I am doing this at this time. I want to say also that other states are recognizing the problem and are taking measures to solve the problem. I want to say also that in Canada and only this morning I picked up a newsletter which indicated that the Canadians are asking the farmers up there to purchase their own grain cars for the movement of grain and that without doing that Canadian grain producers are going to suffer substantial losses. We know in this country that a number of producers have already purchased their own hauling equipment but the equipment to haul grain does not do any good for those of us who are on the branch lines and a vast majority of the grain producing area of Nebraska is still situated upon the low quality branch lines. If there is going to be anything done it is going to require some additional support from all of us. The Department of Economic Development has been working for a number of years to try to lay out some kind of a plan or a schedule and I think that Senator Kremer will comment upon them and I know that if we choose to cooperate between state, private industry and private producers, that we can find a solution to this problem but that it will do no good for us to annually decry the shortage of boxcars...

PRESIDENT: One minute, Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...unless we offer some kind of a solution. This solution may not be the best solution. It certainly is not the only solution but it is one solution that was offered by the committee on Agriculture and Environment to the Public Works Committee and I know that is has some sympathy on that committee and as I said earlier the very fact that the committee itself chose to introduce LB 507 indicates the seriousness with which the committee on Public Works views the problem. I would hope that others will address the issue and perhaps we can help to resolve the problem in one manner or another.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Kremer.