

May 2, 1979

LB 11

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...to the detriment of the construction of power plants, storage reservoirs, transmission lines, or irrigation development.

SENATOR REUTZEL: Well, Senator, in those instances... I know of no black-footed ferret in Nebraska to begin with, and I think extensive studies would show that. I can't predict, none of us here can predict what will happen. I find it very difficult to believe that when the black-footed ferret or a tyrannosaurus rex has not been seen in this state for eons why we're going to stop any kind of a construction project for something which is nonexistent.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Well, Senator Reutzel, I'll not support the kill motion at this time then, because I do think there is a possibility we can write in some language that will protect the water rights of individuals and protect the construction rights, and that sort of thing, and I do want to just state in closing, however, that the Federal Endangered Species Act does have some rather strict language that could very seriously stop or slow down the construction of projects such as I have mentioned. I want to point out also that the construction of Gentleman Station Number One out at Sutherland was held up a long period of time, I believe about fourteen months by virtue of an objection of the Sierra Club at a cost of many millions of dollars, and the plant was ultimately moved about three hundred feet at the cost of additional millions of dollars. So while we're talking about the desirability of many of these projects, we do not want to lose sight of the fact that in the future those costs may come back to haunt us, and so I certainly will cooperate with you. Hopefully we can accomplish the purpose you want to accomplish without seriously hampering the very real concerns that many of us have on this floor.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Fowler.

SENATOR FOWLER: I'll call the question.

PRESIDENT: Do I see five hands? I do. The question is, shall debate cease? All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Record the vote.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: The motion carries. Debate ceases. Senator Kahle, you may close on your motion to indefinitely postpone.