

May 10, 1979

LR 53

important that we do take some action so far as to encourage the steady supply of locomotives to the State of Nebraska to help us with our switching problems as far as grain cars are concerned and this simply would indicate to the President that those of us in the Midwest think that the highest priority for use of locomotives which are manufactured would be internally in the United States and I think the resolution speaks for itself. There is some information contained in it. I would hope that we could adopt it and then proceed with more substantive types of issues today.

SENATOR CLARK PRESIDING

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I will not take much time either. I just want to reinforce what Senator Cullan has said and join with Senator Kremer in asking for the adoption of this resolution. I am particularly interested because only last summer when we were having difficulty moving grain I specifically and repeatedly asked the railroads what their difficulty was and they said, well, we do have sufficient cars but we do not have the power to pull them in all instances. I think when it was finally boiled down to a bottom line they conceded that the engines that they had were being used to transport coal and the grain cars were standing on the sidings. Many times the grain cars were loaded virtually immediately upon receipt. Nevertheless they stood there for a week or ten days before they were moved. It does not make sense to me nor to anyone else, I think, that at this time in a period of critical shortage of power, I mean engine power, that we would be exporting all of these locomotives. I think the resolution supports Governor Thone's admonition that we should not export locomotives when we are in such a critical shortage here at home. I would further like to suggest also that in the event they are so short of diesel fuel, it would seem to be a good time for the railroads considering returning to the coal power steam driven locomotives and I am not much of a railroad expert but it seems like that would be a way to go. I would ask for the adoption of the resolution.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Kremer.

SENATOR KREMER: Mr. Chairman, members, I don't have a lot to add only to say that I doubt if most of us know the seriousness of this problem that continues to be before us but it continues to increase year by year. I know there