

May 23, 1979

LB 42

portion of the bill which is now the funding mechanism for a crossing safety devices as well as for the construction of overpasses and underpasses. The effective date of that is in 1980 and then I would suggest I think it is appropriate to wait for those interim studies and have this bill pending on Final Reading to see if there are any changes that are necessary at that point in time. When this bill was introduced initially the intent of the bill and the only intent of the bill was...the major intent of the bill, there were two or three minor changes, the major intent of the bill was to change the funding mechanism to lower the share that local communities had to pay for crossing devices and only the arms and signals and other crossing devices at the intersection of railroads and public highways or streets. Since that point in time the bill has been amended at numerous stages and the bill now is turned into a funding mechanism to support not only those crossing devices but in addition to support the construction of overpasses and underpasses. One of the concerns I have and frankly that I have not been able to check out efficiently, is the effect of that change and the merging of those two systems and the only concern I have is that one concern is that the railroads may, in fact, have a reduced burden, reduced share, as far as crossing devices for state purposes or...not crossing devices but overpasses and underpasses are concerned, as far as when they are constructed with funds from the State of Nebraska. I'm not sure it is a good idea to merge the two programs and again I have no strong objections to the bill. I do not object to the tax portion of the bill but I do think in light of the studies that are coming up, in light of the fact that the bill does not go into effect until July 1st of 1980, that there is no reason to pass this bill at this point in time, that we should wait for the results of those interim studies and then if they confirm what we believe then perhaps the bill should be passed. We may find that there are two or three small amendments which are necessary to the bill at that point in time and so I see no reason to pass a bill when the effective date is delayed in this fashion. I would indicate that I did talk to Senator DeCamp about this earlier this morning. I'm sure Senator DeCamp would like to have the bill passed today but he indicated he would not object to laying it over and naturally I think he is inclined to pass it today. He indicated earlier this morning he would not object to laying it over. With those comments, I think, Senator Dworak, if you have specific questions I would try to answer them but...

PRESIDENT: Senator Dworak, does that answer your question?

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