

February 22, 1980

LB 802

We were out of water and I have seen them come up to the Platte and try and take water and they do take water and we certainly welcome it just like Omaha takes water from it, so let's support this bill but, Senator, can you tell me how we can dedicate this river to the public when we don't only own to the center and what it is going to do to the property owner on the bank of the river?

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Wagner, will you respond?

SENATOR WAGNER: Senator Keyes, the only intent of this bill is just for clarification because basically within the laws the river is essentially appropriated now. The only thing this does is just makes it very clear and this goes back to I think in 1864 when the state was set up, the boundaries and so forth, the boundaries then went to the middle of the river. It is kind of unclear in the statute. The only thing this statute does is just clarifies that section by saying including the Missouri River.

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Reutzel.

SENATOR REUTZEL: Senator Wagner, does this have anything to do with protected rivers legislation? I am just curious because I was listening to Senator Carsten and I thought perhaps we had LB 653 up on the floor. It sounded like a very good oratory for LB 653 and I didn't understand. We just had the hearing yesterday. I wasn't sure but this isn't 653 in disguise. Is it?

SENATOR WAGNER: I don't think we have the crowd here.

SENATOR REUTZEL: This doesn't take away any land from any individual, doesn't... This isn't a land grab by the state. Is it?

SENATOR WAGNER: Senator Reutzel, the only thing this does is clarifies a statute.

SENATOR REUTZEL: It doesn't take anyone's land away?

SENATOR WAGNER: It can't because we are only clarifying a statute.

SENATOR REUTZEL: Well, I don't know. I just heard some good testimony by Senator Carsten that I didn't hear yesterday. I was just curious. I will support the bill because it sounds like 653.

SENATOR WAGNER: 653 drew quite a crowd yesterday if...