

may recall when LB 507 advanced from General File, I spoke against it and voted against it, which might have struck some people as being rather odd since I come from a part of the state that has to depend on branch railroad lines. As a matter of fact, my home town is on one of them. The concern that I had at that time was that we could create the council, we could put in the shippers and the tax dollars to help the railroad lines revitalize their branch lines but we still would have no control over the amount of cars, the amount of traffic that railroad would provide to the shippers, the people using that line. The amendment that I am offering, if you would look at the bill in section 17, the language says the council may attach any condition it deems to be prudent and in the public interest to any assistance provided under section 16 of this act including but not limited to and then it lists eight different things that the council may...the conditions that the council may ask for, and I am simply saying that we should include another one, and that one to give them an agreement between the regional council and the railroad owner of the branch line concerning the amount of car traffic which should be provided to that branch line. If we are going to create this council so that the people on the branch lines can help the railroad keep that branch line, then we should give them a little bit of power as to the amount of cars and the traffic they get on it. My large concern is that we can rebuild the branch lines of rural Nebraska and still not get any railroad cars on it. That is the big problem is getting the cars. Quite frankly, and I visited with Senator Kremer about this, I can support LB 507 with this amendment. I submit to this body that whenever we put tax dollars and granted the majority of these dollars are federal dollars, but I don't think those dollars grow on the cherry trees...whenever we put tax dollars into a private industry, we should have a proportionate amount of control over that industry to make sure that those tax dollars are going to be put to the purpose that they were intended. I would urge the body's support of this amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Kremer.

SENATOR KREMER: Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the Vickers amendment. We did discuss this, and Senator Vickers has been concerned that once a spur line, for example, is put in good working order to be sure that the railroads do not at some point in time say, well, the thing still is not productive and we cannot keep the trains operating, and they pull out. So I think what we are doing here in the