

January 30, 1986 LB 778

PRESIDENT: Senator Rupp, do you have anything further to add?

SENATOR RUPP: I just wanted to respond real short...briefly to Senator Warner's comment. There was a mix of technical expertise on this particular project and I probably should have brought that out. There was a difference of opinion, as I understood it, between the Corps of Engineers and the Natural Resources Commission. The director, in essence, said no, the Corps of Engineers had overwhelming data that said yes. We used the Corps of Engineer's data and thought that we could take that, and not just necessarily lobbying, but the Corps of Engineers data to the commissioners and when we found out that it would require a unanimous vote, in essence, gave up on it. So there was more technical than political in this, I assure you. This is probably kind of an unusual circumstance. But we just didn't feel it is realistic to have a unanimous vote because where do we start and where do we stop with that? For example, the Board of Regents at the University, in essence, takes the word or is forced to take the word of a lot of technicians in the university system. There is a mixture there, I'm sure, of political and technical decisions. Would we, in fact, get anything done with the Board of Regents if it required an 8 to 0 vote on virtually every issue, some of which are technical in nature? I don't think so. I don't think that is realistic. I think that the majority rule should work here as well as it does in a lot of other areas. With that I'd urge your advancement of the bill.

PRESIDENT: (Gavel.) The Chair recognizes Senator Haberman.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President, members of the body, I support advancing the bill. We do everything on majority vote down here. I don't see anything wrong with having a majority vote in this particular interest, so I urge you to advance LB 778. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: There is about five minutes left. Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, I'm not going to pursue this at length but there is a significant difference, to me at least. You are talking about a political decision or a policy decision in which whether a project should be or not