

April 17, 1991

LB 714

vote aye, opposed vote no. We are voting on ceasing debate. Have you all voted? Voting on ceasing debate, have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BAACK: Debate has ceased. We will now go to Senator Wehrbein to close on your motion to indefinitely postpone.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President and members. I'd just like to make some comments, first of all, start on some of the comments that were made, and some were saying that this doesn't necessarily go to this project, but I'd venture to say that if I'd bracket this motion until January of next year, and study it, that that would not meet with Senator Beutler's favor, at this point, because I do think they need the money this year. And I submit to you that it's unfair to use state money to subsidize this bill. As I said earlier, the landowners have had a chance to bid. I don't know what it was but they did lose out to this bid of the trail's group, but I would guess quite strongly that the state appropriation is very important in this. And it doesn't seem fair to me to say...to subsidize an issue such as this against private landowners who did have a legitimate chance to bid but, obviously, have lost out because they couldn't raise the money that would have to go to make a bid. So it seems unfair to pit the state against that. The second issue that I think is even bigger is the fact that this is not an appropriate place for a trail. Those of you who were on the railroad ride the other night went along some beautiful ground, beautiful land, beautiful scenic area along the Platte River. I don't think there would be much opposition to a trail in this location if that track, for example, would ever be abandoned. It is scenic and it is pretty. It doesn't cut someone's fields up. It runs along an area that would be very appropriate for something like this, but that is not the case in this area. I would probably be even more supportive if this particular trail was cut down short, much shorter, so that it was only a few miles out of Lincoln, or something like that. But the way it is going now, it is prime, and I repeat, prime agricultural land. I had the figures at home and I didn't bring them of what kind of class of land that this is, but it is good. It runs the ridge. I was interested in Senator Morrissey's comments about preserving the corridors. If I thought for a moment that this corridor could be preserved, should be