

**FINAL REPORT**

**IOWA BOUNDARY COMMISSION**

Presented to the Legislative Council  
and the Iowa General Assembly  
January 1991

Prepared by the Legislative Service Bureau



# FINAL REPORT

## IOWA BOUNDARY COMMISSION

January 1991

### AUTHORIZATION AND MEMBERSHIP

The Iowa Boundary Commission is established in section 2.91 of the Iowa Code. The Commission is authorized to meet with appropriate representatives of affected states, agencies of those states and Iowa, and agencies of the United States to discuss Iowa's boundaries and to make periodic reports and recommendations to the General Assembly. The Commission is authorized to meet at the call of the Chairperson.

The members of the Iowa Boundary Commission are:

Representative Emil Pavich, Chairperson (Term expires 6-30-94)

Senator Donald Doyle, Vice-chairperson (Term expires 6-30-92)

Senator Michael Gronstal (Term expires 6-30-94)

Senator Jack Hester (Term expires 6-30-94)

Representative Bill Royer (Term expires 6-30-92)

Representative Mike Peters (Term ended 1-14-91)

Representative Patrick Gill appointed 1-15-91 (Term expires 6-30-94)

### MEETING DAYS

The Commission held two meetings with members of the Nebraska Boundary Commission on May 25, 1990, and August 13, 1990.

### SUMMARY OF MEETINGS

The Commission conducted the two meetings in an effort to identify the current problems which have prevented the enactment of a new boundary compact between the states-of Iowa and Nebraska, and to identify possible solutions to those problems.

On May 25, 1990, the Iowa Commission traveled to Omaha, Nebraska, and met with J. Michael Jess, Chairperson of the Nebraska Boundary Commission. Issues identified where agreement must be reached if a compact is to be entered into included the following:

1. A determination of whether the boundary between Iowa and Nebraska will be a fluid boundary coinciding with the center of the Missouri River





- or fixed after a determination of the center of the river is made and agreed to by both states.
2. A determination of affected property rights and identification of sources of funds for mitigation payments related to lost property rights resulting from the movement of the boundary.
  3. Disposition of the Carter Lake area which is now located on the west (Nebraska) side of the Missouri River.
  4. A determination of the effect of any compact on boundaries located on Indian reservations.

At the close of this meeting it was agreed that a meeting would be held at a later date between the members of both commissions to continue discussions on the issues identified.

On August 13, 1990, the Iowa Commission again traveled to Omaha, Nebraska, to meet with the full membership of the Nebraska Commission. After initial remarks it became apparent that the Nebraska Commission was unwilling to continue any discussions unless the Iowa Commission agreed that the town of Carter Lake is to be ceded to the state of Nebraska. As a result of this impasse, the Nebraska Commission indicated that further discussions are not warranted.

The members of the Iowa Commission indicated their willingness to continue to work on the issue and anticipate making contact with officials from the state of Nebraska early in 1991 after the new membership of the Nebraska Commission is appointed.

2571PC  
MJ/dg