

State Capitol News

# Niobrara Guilty of Pollution

By MELVIN PAUL  
The Frontier's Statehouse Correspondent

LINCOLN — The state health department this week continued action in an area which immediately could affect many Nebraska cities—water pollution.

Seven cities along the Missouri river were formally notified they must stop dumping untreated sewage and industrial wastes into that river. Notification came in a letter from Dr. E. A. Rogers, acting director of the department.

The letters went to Niobrara, South Sioux City, Dakota City, Omaha, Bellevue, Plattsmouth and Nebraska City. Actually, it was no surprise as city councils of the seven river towns had been told six weeks ago that the health department wanted to talk the matter over with them.

Dr. Rogers wrote that a study in 1950 showed "clearly that the Missouri river bordering our state is contaminated beyond all accepted standards for water serving as a supply for daily purpose."

Later the department plans to widen its efforts to include towns which dump sewage into creeks leading directly into the Missouri.

All of this is part of an "up-stream pull" by the department to clean up the streams of Nebraska.

Almost every legislature finds an anti-pollution bill and every session finds some of the bitterest opposition and most skillful lobbying employed against it. Such bills are axed every time. Oddy enough it is the cities and villages of Nebraska which fight the measure. Apparently thinking in terms only of the cost of setting up adequate plants, the cities fight the bill on grounds they should have more time to "clean up" themselves.

But health department officials are convinced that the "voluntary" method will never work. And so town after town drinks of the water into which untreated sewage has been discharged a few miles upstream.

### Taxpaying Time—

State motor vehicle director Owen Boyles explained details of the new motor vehicle taxation procedure. Personal property tax statements are coming out minus the motor vehicle assessment. That's because 1953 taxes on automobiles and trucks will be a token tax only—\$1. But in January when citizens go to buy their license plates they will pay their 1954 motor vehicle taxes at the same time. These will be based on the 1953 levies, to be sure, and for most folks will be considerably less because of the new 50 percent assessment law. Boyles said that technically a person could pay his motor vehicle tax now. But he might as well wait until January when he buys his tags. His county treasurer, busy with collecting other personal property taxes, would undoubtedly appreciate his waiting, also.

### Self Help—

When Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Benson suggested that the states assume more functions in the agriculture program, Gov. Robert Crosby said he thought it

was a good idea. He said he could think of two places where this could be done. One would be strengthening the research program of the University of Nebraska college of agriculture. The other would be setting up some kind of drought relief program for small scale dry areas such as Hitchcock county at present.

But when Crosby was asked where the money would come from, he didn't have such a ready answer. He said that would be a matter for the legislature if it thought it worthwhile.

And he conceded that for a statewide drought disaster federal aid of some sort might be necessary.

All of which pointed up the problem which the Eisenhower administration is posing for some "states righters." The latter have hollered loud and long about federal spending. But when the new administration suggests that some of these projects be given back to the states, there is an awkward silence from state officials who don't know where the money will come from.

### Resignations—

Some interesting resignations by state officials have taken place. One is that of 76-year-old Henry Bartling, secretary of the state board of educational lands and funds the past 12 years. Bartling will step out on February 1. He has gone through two "hot times" with the board. One was after he took office when he spent months clearing up finances of the department. The other was after the Supreme court ruled that school land leases must go up for auction and couldn't be automatically renewed. Storms of abuse came upon members of the board and on Bartling. But the line was held firm and the matter has apparently finally simmered down after appealing lease holders lost their cases all the way up to the U. S. Supreme Court.

The other noteworthy resignation was that of State Tax Commissioner Norris Anderson, who stepped out after nine months in the office to take a post with the state farm bureau.

Anderson was succeeded by his deputy, George W. Peterson, a man with considerable tax experience from county clerk and assessor in Knox county on up. It is believed that Anderson resigned because he had become an advocate of broadening the tax base, by either a sales or an income tax. Crosby has been neutral on the subject, saying it is up to the people. But, Anderson, who felt his hands tied while holding a state office, apparently wanted to get into a position where he could actively campaign

for his ideal. Apparently after months of working with the property tax he had come to feel that it was not the answer, friends explain. The farm bureau has advocated the sales tax for several years. Thus Nebraska has lost what might have been its first "sales-tax-backing tax commissioner."

### Off The Record—

Yet another case of a government body keeping things secret from the public was uncovered. This time it was the board of regents of the University of Nebraska. In the opinion of newspaper reporters and other observers this body is spending an unreasonable amount of its time in "executive session," which means the doors are closed and the public and press are kept out.

This time the board of regents appointed a committee to review the question of allowing the teachers college of the university to grant a degree of doctor of education. The action was taken in "executive session" and the word didn't leak out until several days later. When the policy was announced earlier this year, it brought a storm of protest that a "watered down" doctor's degree was being offered. But the board stood pat. Now apparently it is thinking things over.

Like most of us, it didn't want its possible "about face" publicized. So it went into an executive session which lasted most of the day.

### O'NEILL LOCALS

Mrs. Albert House of Sioux City is spending a few days here visiting at the homes of her sister, Mrs. Axel Borg, and family and her brother, Frank Searles, and family.

Toyland—Bigger and better than ever. Now open. Use our lay away plan—Scovie's Western Auto, O'Neill, 28-32c.

Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Borg moved the forepart of this week into the house formerly occupied by Don Green.

Mr. and Mrs. Orville McKim and Mr. and Mrs. William Andersen visited Mr. and Mrs. Harold Williams at Stuart on Sunday.

Thomas Harding left for Sioux City Sunday where he will be employed.

Miss Elizabeth Schaffer spent the weekend with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Dewey Schaffer. She attends the University of Nebraska.

Tune in "Voice of The Frontier", thrice weekly!

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## Deloit News

Deloit received about two inches of snow Friday evening and Saturday morning. Most of the corn is picked and corn shelling is in progress.

Mr. and Mrs. Leo Funk and Vera Dell visited at the Kenny Ziska home in Atkinson on Sunday. Sheila returned home with them for a visit with her grandparents.

Farm bureau met on Tuesday, evening, November 3, at the A. E. Bartak home. The next meeting will be Tuesday, December 1, at the Bud Bartak home. Cake and jello will be served.

Elayne Reimer was a supper guest Friday evening at the home of Joyce Demaray.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Sehi were supper guests last Thursday evening at the Virtus Sehi home.

Mr. and Mrs. Maynard Stearns attended a farm bureau meeting at Lincoln last week.

Bob and Kieth Bartak returned home last week from Colorado where they had been deer hunting northwest of Denver. Each got a deer. While in Denver they visited in the Harold Cook home.

Leland Hupp, who attends high school in Norfolk, spent the weekend at home.

Mrs. Ted Twiss and Mrs. Henry Reimer attended a meeting in Neligh Tuesday, November 3, on making glo-candles.

The Deloit pinocle club met at the home of Mrs. Adolph Koenig last Thursday. Mrs. Leon Sisson had high score and Mrs.

Vincent Thiele low. Mrs. Carl Thiele won the traveling prize. A dessert luncheon was served by the hostess.

Mr. and Mrs. Ewald Spahn and Mr. and Mrs. Lambert Bartak of Ewing and Doris Bartak of Norfolk spent Tuesday, November 3 in Omaha.

Shirley Sehi visited Lapra Mae and husband at their home in Elgin last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Reimer and Elayne and Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Carnes of Neligh visited Sunday at the Don Starr home in West Point.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Reimer were dinner guests at Glenn Harpster's on Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. Bennett Gilligan returned late Sunday from Nebraska City where they had spent four days visiting Mr. Gilligan's mother, Mrs. Maude Gilligan. She had been "quite ill" for six weeks but is "better."

Mr. and Mrs. Bennie Wetzler were weekend guests of Mr. and Mrs. Cassius Arrasmith of Loup City.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Worth visited Mr. and Mrs. Fred Lindberg on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Harley visited the Vernon Keeney home at Norfolk on Sunday.

Sheryl Harley spent from Wednesday until Sunday at the Ralph Beckwith home.

Sunday dinner guests at the Vernon Harding home were Mr. and Mrs. Bill LaFortune of Sioux of Sioux City, Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Harding and family, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Harding and family and Mrs. Lois Leigh.

Venetian blinds, prompt delivery, made to measure, metal or wood, all colors.—J. M. McDonald's.

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Mr. and Mrs. Roy Worth visited Mr. and Mrs. Fred Lindberg on Sunday.

Wagons, tricycles, bicycles, sleds, dolls, etc. Use our lay away plan.—Scovie's Western Auto, O'Neill.  
Mr. and Mrs. John Tiefenthaler of Butte visited at the home of their daughter and family, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Benson, on Sunday.

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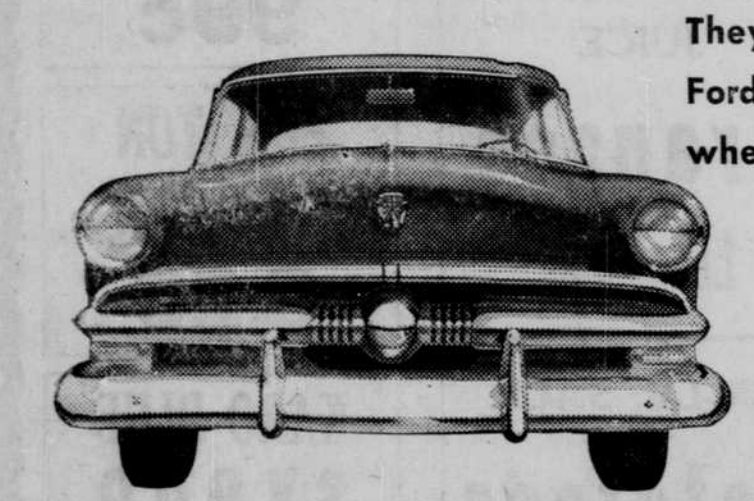
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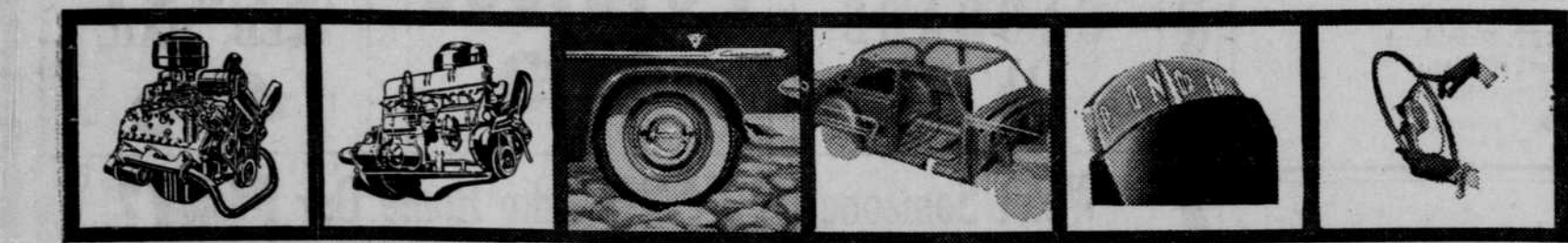


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Fordomatic Drive is the only "automatic" in its field that offers the "Go" of an automatic intermediate gear plus the smoothness of a torque converter.  
Finest Power Steering — that's Ford Master-Guide. It does up to 75% of the steering work yet retains the normal steering "feel" on the straightaways.

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**PUBLIC SALE**  
HAVING DECIDED to quit farming, I will offer at public auction the following described personal property on the premises, located 5 miles north of Chambers, one-half mile west, one-half mile north and one quarter mile west, OR 12 miles south of O'Neill, 5 1/2 miles west, one-half mile north and one-fourth mile west, on —  
**WEDNESDAY, NOV. 18TH**  
SALE STARTS AT 12:30 P.M. LUNCH SERVED ON GROUNDS

**32 - Head of CATTLE - 32**  
19—MILK COWS, 3 to 7 years old  
6 Holsteins, 5 of which are 2d calf hfrs  
1—Roan Shorthorn, to freshen soon, second calf heifer  
3—Red Brockle Face Cows, to freshen soon  
2—Blue Roan COWS, to freshen soon  
1—Holstein Springing HEIFER  
1—Red Brockle Face HEIFER, coming 2  
1—JERSEY COW, 8-yrs.-old  
1—Black Whiteface Heifer, coming 2  
1—Black Whiteface Stock Cow with Calf  
1—Roan Shorthorn  
8—CALVES  
1—Reg. Black Angus BULL  
2—Jersey COWS, 4-yrs.-old, to freshen by sale date  
2—COWS, 7-yrs.-old, to freshen by sale date  
— 150 BU. EAR CORN —  
TEAM of Smooth-Mouth Horses, good, broke - 6—SHOATS, wgt. 175 Lbs.

**FARM MACHINERY, ETC.**  
2-Row Cultivator, pull type  
Single-Row J-D Cultivator  
J-D Corn Planter  
Hay Stacker, good  
McCor. Hay Rake, new  
Hammer Mill  
50-Ft. Drive Belt  
Regular Tractor and Power Mower  
Harrow, 18-ft.  
Disc  
Hay Rack  
Wagon on Rubber  
Saddle and Riding Bridle  
Set Harness  
1/2-In. Log Chain, good  
Roll Chicken Wire, 10 rds.  
8—Round Feeding Pans  
Feeders and Waterers  
Brooder Stove  
Brooder House, 10x12  
Cross Cut Saw

**HOUSEHOLD GOODS**  
Cupboard  
Small Cabinet  
2—Tables  
Buffet  
Piano  
Davenport & 2 Big Chairs  
Bed Spring  
Wood or Coal Heater  
Quaker Oil Heater  
Sink  
Farm Master Electric Separator, new  
Rocking Chair  
2—9x12 Linoleum Rugs  
2—8x10 Linoleum Rugs  
Other items too numerous to mention

TERMS: Cash on all personal property; none to be removed until settled for  
**JIM RASMUSSEN, Owner**  
COL. ED THORIN, O'Neill, Auct. CHAMBERS STATE BANK, Clerk