

January 23, 1974

SENATOR SKARDA: Mr. President and members of the body. I'd like to clarify one thing that is physically impossible to do is to get permission when you are hunting coyotes with dogs. Nobody has hunted them any more than I have. The many years that I've done it, and I'm still doing it actively. You release a pack of dogs, the chances are three or four packs will be released behind them, so you will cover an area anywhere from a mile to 25 miles, and I've seen them go farther than that. So if anybody can tell me how you can follow those dogs and get that permission, I'll buy them the best steak that is obtainable. Believe me it is something that I just don't go along with it and it is physically impossible to do and Senator Rasmussen knows it and so does the good Senator who spoke, Senator Barnett. So this is the question I leave before you. How are we going to get around that particular part of it? Of what Senator Rasmussen was making mention of.

PRESIDENT: Next to speak then, is Senator Maresh, then Anderson, then Nore, then Mahoney, then Richendifer.

SENATOR MARESH: Mr. President and members of the Legislature I wonder if Senator Rasmussen would answer a question?

PRESIDENT: He yields.

SENATOR MARESH: Would this allow a person who posted his farm, and these people be prevented from shooting towards the place that is posted.

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: Right.

PRESIDENT: Senator Anderson, did you want to pass.

SENATOR ANDERSON: I'll go ahead. Mr. President and members of the Legislature. Just in terms of my own reaction to this bill. Number one, I am not personally very enthusiastic about any kind of road hunting. Mainly from a safety point of view, and from a sportsmanship point of view. The primary difficulty with road hunting is that it is a safety hazard in terms of handling fire arms. I think for this reason it should be done reluctantly. Now, in regard to the situation with the bill that Senator Rasmussen has presented. This is something of a special situation because many stock growers particularly the sheep growers find themselves in the situation where coyotes are causing depredation to property. And of course we realize that the tools that they once had to deal with these depredation problems have, and probably rightfully so in some cases, been taken away from them. And so right now the situation where about the only remaining tool they have left to control coyotes is by encouraging the sport hunters to go ahead and attempt to keep the population in check. And so I think this is the basic reason for the bill. It is a tool for the agriculture interests to deal with the depredation problem. Although in this regard, I also have some hope that we can develop in the future in the State of Nebraska more effective and more selective means of depredation control. And I think there are couple states, namely Kansas and Missouri that have done it. A much better job of this. In Kansas as an example they are going through the Extension Division now, and the Extension Division is attempting to go out and deal with individual stockmen who are having problems