

I have no objection to it being obtained and acquired and developed but I think we ought to recognize, as was pointed out to you earlier, the money spent by the NRD is tax money, it is property tax money, and you have a considerable base in the Omaha area and maybe you can afford it but you have to go all the way. And so before you take the first step, let's be sure that you can take the rest of the trip and complete that whole circle around the lake or you are going to find yourself out in the middle of that lake, Senator Newell, and it may be pretty deep.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: The Chair recognizes Senator Fowler.

SENATOR FOWLER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I am I guess somewhat appalled at the attitude of the rural senators in here. Everybody starts their speech with the preference, of course, I have nothing against more recreational space, and then they proceed to say they don't want any around Omaha. I don't know how many bills we get in this Legislature every year with a rural senator asking improvement at this lake or creation of this park. I know that Senator Merz has one in just this year on Indian Cave. I think out in the Scottsbluff area we are always getting bills in to try and improve a lake here and there. Senator Richard Lewis has something for Red Willow. On and on, the list of lakes that are going to be improved from the rural areas. Yet when the Omaha senators ask for something in the Omaha area, suddenly people start expressing concerns about the cost and the price and so on. The Constitutional Revision and Recreation Committee under Senator Koch's leadership has seen fit to put a number of these bills out to help rural areas get their recreational facilities improved, and if you look at the membership there, you can see that it is decidedly urban but there is no bias, there is no prejudice on that committee. Then we get out here on the floor with a simple resolution and all the rural senators say, why, I am for recreation but not around Omaha. Yet that is where the people are. That is where the need is. I think that we should work together to solve our recreation problems in this state. I think the urban interests and the Omaha and Lincoln senators serving on the Constitutional Revision Committee have shown a great willingness to pass these bills out so the full Legislature can consider these improvements. Support for Senator Reutzel's concept of NORDA came strong from the urban areas, and yet when there is an opportunity to get a recreational facility near Omaha, the rural areas start muttering about costs and so on. I recall Senator Murphy before the Appropriations Committee making some presentation about buying some tract of land next to Ponca State Park. I can't remember if it was an old golf course or someone's old property or something but this was a real opportunity, it was a real bargain. We ought to get moving on it and I remember Senator Murphy making a very impassioned plea before our Appropriations that here is a great park and there is a recreational need in northwest Nebraska and we ought to meet it. Now when Senator Newell and Senator Koch try to take care of some recreational needs near their area, Senator Murphy suggests that this land remain in private ownership. Well, he didn't suggest that to the Appropriations Committee. I think we ought to each have a little more cooperative spirit here. I know that several senators want to see their areas around the state improved. I think we ought to cooperate with the Chairman of the