

people that were raising bobcats and lynx for their fur. This bill reinstates those two animals and allows them to be raised commercially for their fur under a permit issued by Game and Parks Commission. I understand Senator Chambers' feelings and a lot of people share those feelings and this debate, I guess, is very timely because I did hear on the radio, driving in this morning, about the Bob Barker sentiment and the Miss USA contest tonight, so it's very timely and ironic that we would discuss this this morning. And I understand that perfectly. However, we could have a great profile and philosophical discussion of the rights and wrongs of keeping animals, and utilizing animals, whether it be their flesh, or their fur, or what have you. There currently is a fur...a commercial fur business in the state. People will grow mink, and possibly fox, and I don't know what other animals. This bill simply adds bobcat and lynx, two very similar animals, to that list that they can grow commercially. It is to reinstate something that we inadvertently did last year and, again, I understand the sentiments on both sides of this issue. It is a very controversial thing and it is one that gets a lot more discussion as time goes on. And probably someday public sentiment will be to the effect, I think it is moving in that direction, that this business will probably be looked upon with scorn by a larger and larger number of people. But, nevertheless, in the meantime, I think we are just, as I say, fine tuning a bill that we passed last year that did profoundly affect a few people in this state that had a good intent of trying to make a living the best way they knew how in Senator Dierks's, Senator Hefner's, Senator Haerman's district. I guess with that I would relinquish the rest of my closing time to Senator Dierks. Maybe he can specifically tell you about his constituent.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Dierks, for the remainder of the time.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the body. I would just like to remind that Senator Chambers hit a place close to home there a little bit ago. I, too, spend my whole life with animals in trying to make their life more appreciative and more comfortable and less stressful. And I, too, am somewhat amazed at man's inhumanity to animals at times, but I think that in this particular case, we are not talking about putting small animals some place and taking potshots at them, and we are not talking about cruelty as far as the way these animals are handled and cared for. They really have a better way of life the way these people do take care of them than they