

March 5, 1981

LB 72

raised on LB 72 and as chairman of the committee, I will certainly try to answer them. I urge the advancement of LB 72 from E & R initial.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is on the advancement of the bill. The Chair recognizes Senator Vickers.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. Speaker and members, I am a member of the Constitutional Recreation Committee and was present at the hearing when we heard LB 72, however, I was not present when LB 72 was advanced and I just want to alert the body that there are some problems that I have with portions of LB 72 and attempt to tell you briefly a little bit about some of those problems, however, I am not at this point in time ready to offer an amendment because I have still got to clarify some things with the Game and Parks Department and I will be attempting to amend LB 72 on Select File. I have mentioned this to Senator Labeledz before I can vote for the bill on Final Reading. Part of the problem that I have with it and I will in order to perhaps alleviate some of the concerns that some of my colleagues might have, as Senator Labeledz pointed out, the removal of the raccoon and the opossum from the game animal list would require a fur harvesting permit to shoot raccoon or opossum and this was of some concern to me until I did a little bit of research in it and there is a section in the statute that has an exception for that, if the raccoon...and it mentioned specifically raccoon and opossum, if they are being a predator as many of you from rural Nebraska are aware of, that in certain instances those two animals can, in fact, be a predator and it was not my intention to get the farmer in the situation where he had to have a fur harvesting permit to go out and shoot this predator on his property. So there is that exception so that did alleviate my concern with that area. The other concern that I have and as I say, I am not ready at this point in time to offer an amendment, is in the area of a fur buyer's permit. We are increasing the permit from \$50 to \$100. There are some people in my district that I am aware of and how many other areas in the state I am not familiar with that at the present time are buying and processing and selling pheasant skins, pheasant feathers and so forth largely because of the popularity of the hat bands that many of you saw and I suppose it is partly due to the popularity of the types of hats that I guess I have wore all my life but suddenly they are popular in urban areas also, but these are very small value as far as sale is concerned. They are nothing valuable like raccoon skins or coyote hides or anything of this nature or mink and this sort of thing. So it seems to me that