

look at that game conservation fund, I'm not talking about the Habitat Program now, you will see that that is in serious serious condition. Now if you do not want to raise these fees so that the users are, in fact, paying for it, then you are going to have to look for some revenue from other sources. Now if you philosophically believe this should be a general fund expenditure and everybody in the state should equally support fishing and hunting, so be it. Then vote against this bill because that is going to be the alternative. If you believe that those who use it, those who play pay, then support this bill. Now I hear this argument that I have received all this mail, fifteen letters, saying I want my hunting and fishing license increased. I think if you would really talk to the true sportsman, to the people who are really involved and are really concerned and they are knowledgeable, they are going to recognize the realities of today and they are going to support this. I know when I carried that Habitat Stamp bill, you know, a lot of people were opposed to that bill, no question about it but sportsmen's club after sportsmen's club all the way across this state supported that concept and we have gotten a lot of tangible positive results from it. Now this is a serious situation and if you look at that Game and Parks budget and if you look at what inflation is doing to that like any other agency, like any other business, like any other family, you are going to have to do something about this dwindling revenue situation. Now either we are going to do it this way or we are going to have to do it through the general fund which I am basically opposed to. I think this is the way to do it. I think those who hunt and fish should pay for it. Now, I grant you, it may cause some very harsh individual budgeting decisions where an individual hunter and fisherman using it only once a year may decide that, in fact, he can't afford it and I regret that but there are a lot of things that people can't afford. So, I think you had better take this serious and you had better look at the overall picture and you better reach down in the bottom of your philosophical heart right here and say, is it a general fund expenditure or is it a user fee. I wholeheartedly support LB 72.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Vickers.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. Speaker and members, I was going to address some of the concerns that Senator Maresh had raised and I will but I believe first I would to some degree like to agree with Senator Dworak. I'm not sure I am ready to reach down to the bottom of my philosophical heart, however. I thought that was a pretty good comment, Senator Dworak, but I do believe in user fees and it is also pointed out to me that not all areas of the state are perhaps as fortunate as we are in southwestern Nebraska with the good hunting