

is going to increase the population of the raccoon. That is my concern.

SENATOR VICKERS: Okay, thank you, Senator Maresh. Perhaps I misunderstood your concern. It seems to me, however, that the value that raccoon hides have at the present time, most people would probably be willing to pay that increase but I understand their concern and perhaps you can deal with that on Select File also. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Your welcome. Underneath the North balcony it is my privilege to introduce as guests of Senator and Mrs. Kahle, granddaughters Allison and Becky Hartman. Where are you folks so that we may...there you are, okay. Senator Labedz, do you wish to close on the motion to advance the bill?

SENATOR LABEDZ: Yes, I certainly do, Mr. Speaker. And for Senator Maresh I would like to also add that he mentioned the young people that would like to go out and kill these raccoons without obtaining a permit of any kind in order to protect property and the farmers and so forth, the raccoon fur now is worth any amount from \$20 to \$35. The opossum of course is less and also to state that those under 16 would be allowed to hunt the opossum and raccoon without a hunting permit or without a fur, they wouldn't be able to hunt it under this bill under the hunting permit but they would be allowed under the fur harvesting because they don't necessarily under this bill have to have a permit. I would like to explain a little bit why it is very, very necessary and Senator Dworak did an excellent job of stating that it would be impossible to get out of the general fund the necessary funds to operate our state park system, the hunting and fishing, habitat and so forth. We've got to have these fees increased. Since the Games and Parks Commission, as we know it today, was established in 1959, we all know that it has grown impressively to meet the outdoor recreational needs of all Nebraskans, for instance the visitation to our state parks and other visitation areas. In 1960 there were seven hundred thousand visitors. In 1970, by 1970 there, I'm sorry, in 1960 there were seven hundred thousand visitors and in '70 there was 5 million eight hundred thousand. In 1976 we saw 7 million visitors. In fiscal year 1979 and '80 there were a little more than 8 million. Under normal conditions we could expect further increases in the use of Games and Parks facilities but the conditions we face in the years to come are not going to be normal. The Games and Parks is responding to all the events and the needs of the people of the State of Nebraska. Parks and programs are being improved and upgraded in private donations and we all know that they have been very numerous, are an integral part of the development of the Games and Parks program. A second