

March 6, 1981

LB 74

SENATOR LABEDZ: I move to advance LB 74 from General File to E & R Initial, but I would like to mention that Senator Chambers mentioned that we did increase the hunting license, the fishing license, I think there was fourteen of them that we increased but there is not one dollar of those, of those funds, that we can use in the state parks system. We have to rely on the entry fees for most of the revenue. I would also like to mention that in 1981 to 1982 we are expecting at least 8,202,500 people visiting our state parks and we certainly want, especially the Nebraskans, when they visit our state parks, that they are going to find a park that is beautiful, well equipped, that everything is kept clean and I am sure that if any of you like I did take one of the "Know Nebraska" tours, the year before, and I should say it was in 1979, I was just amazed at what we have in the State of Nebraska and I have heard it from many, many other people that have gone on these tours or that have gone to individual parks and they are very proud of our parks system and I am very proud of it. There are many, many people that use the parks that have not...have written me any letters or have complained to me about increasing the fees even when we had it at a \$10 annual permit and raising the daily to \$3. Now we have the annual at \$5, the daily at \$2 and, of course, we have corrected the situation in the wrongful doing of the duplicate permits and all the people that were obtaining as high as five and ten at a time and selling them to their friends or getting away with using the park system for a whole year on a \$1. So I urge the members of this Legislature to advance LB 74 from General File. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Chambers, did you wish to speak on the advancement of LB 74?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, although the amount of money may seem piddling, even trifling, I think there is a principle involved here. There is such a thing as a public domain. We, who sit in the Legislature, want to put a fee or tax on anything that we can where we think the public will not make a great outcry but the public often wonders why they have to pay to go someplace where nothing is really being offered. There are no entertainment facilities at any of these parks and they are not thinking about the fact that latrines are there, that the grass is cut or paper is picked up. All they know is that the parks are supposed to belong to the state which means they belong to all of the citizens, that they are being charged a fee before they can even set foot or set tire on the park's property. They cannot drive through it without paying for it so they can sit on the outside and look at it. Yet we see situations where maybe we will come into the Capitol