

yield to any questions. Otherwise, I would ask that the bill be advanced for E & R Initial.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Owen Elmer, please.

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you, Mr. President and members, I sat on the Natural Resources Committee and during the testimony it was brought out that in many areas of the state, mine included, the population of deer almost outnumber the population of people. And in some areas they have become a nuisance. So I questioned the Game and Parks during the hearing as to the areas where overpopulation of one of these big game animals becomes a problem and they said they have in place a procedure whereby farmers or ranchers that are aggrieved with overpopulation of these animals can come to the department or the Game and Parks Commission and...the Game and Parks, and ask for a permit to take care of some of these problems. And Game and Parks does cooperate and, in some instances, it does allow the reduction of numbers of deer and those kind of things that would allow them to take care of those problems without having to pay these liquidated damages, but they do have to get the permission first. I wanted to put those...make these comments for the record and for your information. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you, Senator Elmer. Senator Wehrbein, please.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Mr. President and members, I would like to ask Senator Bernard-Stevens a question. I noticed you exempted or took out whooping crane. Is there a further explanation of that, other than I...that evidently comes under federal law or...?

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Well, I thought we might make it the state bird, as a possibility, I don't know. I'm sorry, Senator Nelson, I just couldn't resist. This bill came from the Game and Parks and my understanding is that is not...has not and is not a problem in the State of Nebraska and they also felt it was not...did not fit the categories as the bill had. That's the best answer I can give you at this particular point.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: I assume it's still protected and if there were some questions being raised.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Now I remember the exact answer I should give you, even before I went to the aide to ask. That's