

ago there was a workshop held out in the central part of Nebraska on the subject of aquaculture. At that time 445 people attended that workshop. There is widespread interest this issue across the state. At that same workshop we had 62 out of the 93 counties represented in that workshop. People are excited about the possibility of a new industry. Studies have shown that aquaculture is feasible in Nebraska. Profitability statistics are showing that money can be made. The price of fish is going up 20, 30 and 40 percent a year. Studies have shown that all of us are eating more fish and foreigners are capitalizing on the market. I think it's time for some of us to take advantage of it. I think Nebraska is open for business. I think aquaculture can become a major industry in this state. I would urge, although I am not usually bullish on trying to break a budget or even reconsidering a motion, I would urge the body to reconsider this motion today. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Wesely, followed by Senator Rod Johnson and Senator Haberman. Is Senator Wesely present? Oh, yeah, okay.

SENATOR WESELY: I'm going to be very brief, Mr. Speaker. I just want to reiterate what Senator Barrett just said, that we've worked on this. We had an Economic Development Committee hearing out in his district, that there was a big turnout of individuals wanting to see something done on aquaculture and ever since then I've been committed to this program. The Game and Parks activity, they are not involved in commercialization of fish, that they do their thing in terms of the wildlife and the fish ponds for stocking the lakes and what have you, but they are not helping our farmers convert into commercialization. You can use their expertise, and hopefully we could to help in that, but you need an expert out there working with these people to get the job done. So I think Senator Barrett was absolutely right. I know Senator Haberman, Senator Johnson, others have already spoken on this and I certainly hope we can proceed and act on this measure and get this small amount of money into a very important industry. I give the rest of my time...Senator Korshoj, would you like the rest of my time? I'll give the rest of my...no, okay. All right.

PRESIDENT: Did you say yes or no? Oh, okay. Senator Rod Johnson, please, followed by Senator Haberman.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. President and members, as I've listened