

May 8, 1989

LB 814

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Moore, did you care to discuss...? Thank you. Senator Labeledz, any further comment? Thank you. Senator Hefner, Senator Ashford on deck.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I rise to oppose this amendment. Some of us had an opportunity to tour the park last fall and I thought it was a wonderful park and most of this is being constructed with private money. So I think it's only realistic that the state put some money into it. I think this is just a small token that the state can do to show our appreciation to those private contributors. As I understand it now, and a new interchange is going to be built, much money will be invested there and along with the other money that has been invested there to make this a great park for Nebraska, I think we ought to support this. This would help us. This money, this small token, \$330,000 a year, would be a small token to finish, to complete this park. It will certainly help tourism in Nebraska and, if I remember correctly, I believe tourism is the number two or number three business in Nebraska. It is big business. People spend a lot of money on tourism and in return it will help our economy. There is a real need for parks in Nebraska. We, like this one, will be very accessible for the Omaha and Lincoln people and that's where our major population centers are, but they would be able to run out there for a day or two, a weekend, and if they had time to stay a little longer, but I think the need is there, and so I'm going to oppose this amendment at this time.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Ashford, do you care to speak to it?

SENATOR ASHFORD: Just briefly, and then I promised Senator Lynch some of my time, but since his light, he said it was down the line a bit, but just to reemphasize what has already been said, but...and to give my support for this project. The total donations since the commencement of the project have been \$3,694,150...okay, this is old, it's 6 million now, I'm sorry. Shows you how much I know about this project, but it is a wonderful project. I guess Senator Lynch had some questions and I'd be happy to answer them or Senator Wehrbein might about...

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Lynch.

SENATOR LYNCH: Thank you, Senator Ashford, just a statement. I