

disappeared. Several years later I was visiting with a professional person in the area and he was telling me what a wonderful addition to the walls of the recreation room in his basement that those carriage side lamps made, and further conversation provided me with the information that there were many people whose recreational activities came about from investigating "abandoned farm places" and removing therefrom whatever property that seemed to attract their attention because it was abandoned, no one lived there. There is a total disregard, in the minds of many people, in the rights of private property. Now...especially if that private property happens to be in rural Nebraska. Now to get to the pointed issue, which is trying to convert, across the state, abandoned railroad property into a site for recreational activities. I don't know if many of you have had the experience of being a participant in that type of activity, but I certainly have because in the bankruptcy of the Rock Island Railroad there was a right-of-way that was abandoned through my farm, and my neighbors farm. Some of the land, which was very scenic, translated into pasture in our terms, most of which was in farmland. There were attempts made, by the adjoining farm owners, to purchase that which bisected farms. They rarely ran down surveyed lines across the countryside, rather wherever the grade worked best at the time they were putting in the railroad. There was an effort at that time, well over 15 years ago, to transfer that land to the Game and Parks Commission, or whatever it was called at that time, for use as a public recreational activity. Well, the issue was handled by a bankruptcy court in Chicago and the court was not at all interested in parceling out this, but rather was interested in selling it, in total, to an investor, for whatever use that investor might make of that land. The first thing the investor did, upon the purchase of that land, was salvage out the track and the rail. There was a period of three to four years, after the removal of the track and rail, when really there was no one responsible for this land that had been privately owned by the railroad, taken over by the bankruptcy court, subsequently sold to an investigator (sic). We had one terrible time...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR COORDSEN: ...for a number of years with people who...they were trespassing, as a matter of fact, but there was no one there to complain, through the back door, the back pasture of everyone's private property. And the fence, whatever