

April 17, 1991

LB 714A

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Coordsen, on the Lamb amendment.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. I also support the Lamb amendment. Currently, we...I don't know what the figures are but it's several millions of dollars, if not more, that Game and Parks has spent for recreational lands, game management areas, state parks, et cetera, et cetera, over the past number of years to provide for the citizens of Nebraska and those that visit in the state opportunities for recreation. Currently, down in Jefferson County, Nebraska, Game and Parks is in the process, willing buyer, willing seller, of acquiring about 700 acres of land to add to Rock Creek State Park, several hundreds of thousands of dollars. The money is available, I think, to implement the intent of 714, if, in fact, the intent of 714 is to develop a statewide system of recreational trails for hikers and bikers. If the intent of 714 is to appropriate General Funds money to allow interested parties to outbid adjoining land owners for available railroad right-of-way, then that is certainly a totally different story. If the intent of 714 is pure and simply directed toward recreational and economic development, vacation oriented expenditure, then we have that capability within our system. I would support the Lamb amendment from that perspective.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Beutler, on the Lamb amendment.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, the spirit of compromise is just overwhelming, not 10,000, not 20,000, but all of it. Obviously, this would just kill the bill and make it meaningless, and I don't know if there is much point in taking your time to go into the substance of arguments any longer. As long as it is apparent to everybody that this effectively kills the bill, then that is the question and, obviously, I oppose that. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Seeing no further lights on, Senator Lamb, do you wish to close on your amendment?

SENATOR LAMB: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I just can't understand Senator Beutler's thinking that this Legislature this year should appropriate \$100,000 and a million dollars over 10 years for a trails system, when the people that are wanting those trails are perfectly ready, willing, and able, in my opinion, to finance it. I just don't believe that is what