

May 30, 1995

LB 209

SENATOR JANSSEN: Madam President and members of the body, there are a few questions I would like to ask Senator Hudkins, if she would respond, please.

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Hudkins.

SENATOR HUDKINS: Yes.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Senator Hudkins, you stated that the...some of the areas have a buffer zone within a half a mile of the reserve. Is that right?

SENATOR HUDKINS: There is between the refuge area there is a buffer zone, yes, that is 110 yards which is 20 rods, but I figure everybody knows what 110 yards are.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Uh-huh. All right. And the Game and Parks feel as though this is adequate to keep from disturbing migratory birds?

SENATOR HUDKINS: That's what they tell me.

SENATOR JANSSEN: And what do they base that decision on? Do you have any idea? I know a shotgun blast will cover a lot further than 110 yards, not the...not the propellant that comes from the gun but the noise is...can be heard that far, I know that.

SENATOR HUDKINS: I don't know what all kind of research or studies that they did but they have been at this for a few years. And there are already in statute four game refuges. One of them has to be...happens to be in Garden County; one in Dodge-Saunders County; one is in Holt-Boyd County, and one is in Lincoln County. This one is just west of Lake McConaughy where it goes...I'm going to guess and say 100 miles. But there are blinds set up right on the edge of this buffer zone. Now, of course, they cannot shoot onto the refuge...

SENATOR JANSSEN: Uh-huh.

SENATOR HUDKINS: ...but if there are any birds that go the other way then they can shoot and with the number of blinds there it certainly has not stopped the migratory habits of these birds.