

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

February 3, 2000 LB 701

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. Lieutenant Governor, members of the Legislature, the Cowboy Trail is not without controversy. Certainly there's ranchers up there that don't like it, but there's a lot of communities that are excited about it and it does offer recreational opportunity in an area of the state that needs economic development. Tourism is really booming in Valentine, Nebraska. I have had the privilege of walking across the old railroad trestle above Long Pine. I wished everybody could do that. That's really exhilarating. So, like I said, it's not without its controversy, but the fact of the matter is the landowners don't want a railroad type fence. It's not practical and it's expensive. And I don't believe one mile of railroad type fence has been built. So we're trying to give you a bill here that Game and Parks can work with that is feasible for the landowners and will give them a chance to get some fence built. They don't want a hog type fence. It collects tumbleweeds, it gets to be a mess, it's hard to maintain. You show me a rancher that's built a hog type fence around a pasture, in the past 30 or 40 years, and he's probably got sheep or hogs on free range out there. There's not much of that going on. There may be a few sheep in a few instances. But I would hope you would adopt this amendment. All it says is that the landowner must file a written request and it deals with the cost-share on the fence and, you know, only if funds are available; there is no A bill with this, only as the Game and Parks has funds available. And, in testifying, we didn't hear one rancher say that they wanted a railroad type fence on their property, and we've talked to several who didn't testify. I would hope you would support this amendment. It did have the support of the majority of the committee, by the way. And, with that, I would like to have you advance this amendment, but if you have questions I will try to answer. Certainly Senator Tyson has visited with many people in his area of the state on the trail.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Schrock. Senator Coordsen, on the Schrock amendment.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. The Schrock amendment that's before us is really not the issue because it simply provides, to the largest extent, that the cost-share responsibility shall not exceed the amount of