

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

January 29, 2003 LB 122

it was on my birthday, so we had the task force meeting on my birthday. My brother went out and fished with my son for three hours. They caught three master angler walleye. Boy, I thought next...before the wind came up and they got blown off the lake. I thought next day, boy, we're going to knock them dead. I spend all day within the next day, eight hours, fishing; we catch two little catfish. No master walleye anglers that day. No master angler walleyes, so...but just the anticipation of maybe catching a big fish is all that it takes to bring people to our lakes. And I'm concerned about the reservoirs. I can tell you there's people in Alma, Nebraska, where Senator Schimek was born...and Senator Schimek and I do have something in common, we were born in the same hospital, different time, though; different time but same hospital...I can tell you there's people in Alma that think the value of that reservoir for recreation is much greater than any value farmers can get from it from irrigation purposes. Don't misinterpret me. I'm not saying that's the case. I'm not saying I believe that, but there are people in the Alma area that think the value of recreation from that reservoir is much greater than any value that the farmers get from irrigation. Now the reason those reservoirs were built down there is because of flood control, but recreation has become very important. In 1935, when that flood came through the Republican River Valley, they put a call out, an emergency call out, for boats. They found two boats, one in Kearney and one in Holdrege. That was 1935. Now if you put out a call for help with boats, you could probably find two per block in some of our communities. Recreation has become very important in the state of Nebraska. It has to be overseen. It has to be regulated. And people want to go to nice areas when they're having recreation, and they want to go to places that are well kept and, as I said, Game and Parks offers a wide variety of opportunities. They have over 200 places you can go that there is no fees. So I will oppose Senator Chambers' amendment. I wish that there was some agreement we could come to on this bill and that we can move it.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR SCHROCK: We've been on this bill for two years and I think this is the year it needs to be done. And I've told you