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

March 1, 2005 LR 8

announcement. He may do so. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Pardon me, Senator. Mr. President, Transportation, Telecommunications Committee will hold an Executive Session at 10:00 in Room 2022.

SENATOR CUDABACK: I'm sorry, Senator Combs, for the interruption. You may proceed.

SENATOR COMBS: No problem. Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I really...I went over and told Senator Chambers this morning, I really do respect his ardor at defending the constitution and I cannot begin to even be as...10 percent as versed as he is in what's in it and what should be in it and what should not be in it, and I do appreciate his ardor at defending his belief. I still believe in the right to hunt, fish, and trap, and I think it might be a little naive to suggest that no one would ever come here, to a state like Nebraska, and try to take that right away from us. was looking at a sheet that was distributed by "Sir" Edward Schrock and trying to pick out some states that were in close proximity because, as we know, the coasts, the far east and the far west, tend to be more to the extremes perhaps than those of us in the Midwest are. But I did see where Colorado in here. just in 1996, they had a successful petition brought forth to ban all trapping, and Colorado is our next-door neighbor. it's not so far-fetched to think that the possibility exists that someone could come here and do the same thing. I mentioned yesterday, and it drew some attention in some public media, but I did talk about eating animals and killing animals and using their fur for clothing and so forth, and utilizing all parts of the animal. I would like to also mention that there are people that do trap for a living. If you remember, some of you trappers who might be listening, raccoons were worth maybe, what, 40, 50 bucks here about 15-20 years ago. Raccoons were a significant source of income for farmers during a time when farming was going through a bad time and was heading down, on a downturn economically. Some farmers did supplement their farming income through trapping, and raccoons were a good source of income for people who needed an extra income. So trapping does serve a beneficial purpose here in Nebraska. It is not