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April 20, 2005 LR 8

SENATOR CUDABACK: Next agenda item, LR 8CA, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, LR 8CA, by Senator Schrock and others. It proposes a constitutional amendment to Article I by adding a new Section 28. Resolution was introduced in January, referred to Natural Resources, advanced to General File. The bill...or, I should say, the resolution was discussed on February 21, and again on March 1. Amendments to constitutional amendment had been offered and considered. There was a bracket motion that prevailed. And I now have other amendments pending to the constitutional amendment, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. (Visitors introduced.) Senator Schrock, would you like to give us a review or recap of LR 8CA?

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I would bring your attention to the fact that this constitutional amendment has been in front of the legislative body, this is for the third year. It's been voted out of committee. This is the first time we've had serious discussion on the floor. It is brought to me by the Nebraska Sportsmen's Foundation, a group of over 100 sportsmen organizations. It is a constitutional amendment that would guarantee the right to hunt, fish, and trap. It is something that is being done in other states. Matter of fact, about 14 states have adopted something of this nature. And we would like to see that happen in Nebraska. One of the New England states had it in their original constitution that's 200 years old. So in their wise ways back then, they knew there was probably going to be trouble down the road. The most recent ones to enact this are Montana and Louisiana. So there is some diversity. I would remind the body that there are 173,000 hunters in this state. There are 296,000 people who fish. They spend...the hunters spend about \$232 million a year in this state in retail sales; fishermen, \$187 million. It is big business. I would also add that the hunters and the fishermen of this state are probably some of the most proactive people when it comes to developing habitat and protecting habitat, and especially for game species. I would hope that we would put this on the ballot and the citizens of this state