

February 27, 1976

SENATOR KIME: Mr. Chairman, members of the body, I would support the Rasmussen amendment. I think the bill as it is is too high on the resident people. Like Senator Dworak says, the hunters want this. Well, some of the hunters want it but many of them think it is a little too high. They are liable to hunt without a license or not hunt at all. I am afraid the hike in the license will cut down the license buying and I don't know they might not even break even with this high price. I have heard from some of the rod and gun clubs in my area and they think the resident hunter, so many of them, go out for one or two days and they will just say, to heck with this high price, we will go out with our friends. We will hunt without a license. So that is the only thing. I am not especially against the bill as it is because I think we need this wildlife habitat but I think the resident hunters, this has been raised too much. It has only been about three years since we raised the license and there was a lot of heat on that. Now we are raising them again. I would support the Rasmussen amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Syas, did you wish to speak on this amendment? Senator Mahoney, did you wish to speak on this amendment?

SENATOR MAHONEY: Mr. President, Senator Rasmussen would you yield to a question, please?

PRESIDENT: Yes, Senator Rasmussen is on the phone. Hold the phone.

SENATOR MAHONEY: Senator Rasmussen, would this reduce it from...explain your amendment to me, would you please?

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: Senator Mahoney, this would be resident fees. On page 7, line 14 instead of raising it to \$6.50, we would raise it to \$5. Instead of \$7.50 for fishing which was \$4, we would raise it to \$5 and the combination would be \$10 for the two. Now the reason, Senator Mahoney, I am doing this. I feel that if we put this thing so far out of context that the average resident in Nebraska is going to say to heck with it. Why, I will take a chance. They can only fine me \$10. I think we would be defeating part of our purpose. I think we would end up losing more money by raising it that high than taking a more moderate increase.

SENATOR MAHONEY: Thank you, Senator Rasmussen. I know that you have noble intent here and I am sure under ordinary circumstances you would be correct and right and you do have a good thought behind it but then it goes back to 1967 before there was any increase in the hunting and fishing licenses so really I didn't want to make this part of my testimony until after we had finished with the amendments but I think it probably is most appropriate now that in our other recreational areas, be it in golf or if