

January 19, 1984

LB 171

I will again explain what it does. It would increase the amount paid to the Recreation Road Fund by one dollar for the benefit of the park users of Nebraska. At the present time, fifty cents is paid from each motor vehicle registration fee into the Recreation Road Fund. This amount has not been changed since 1963. Approximately 270 miles of hard surface roads have been constructed and 47 miles of resurfacing completed since 1963 at a cost of about \$21 million. There are 350 miles of gravel roads maintained by Games and Parks. In addition, there are 130 miles of unimproved trails in the Games and Parks areas which are used as access trails or service trails. This proposed fee increase would boost the annual amount of construction and maintenance of recreational roads and funds from about \$935,000 to \$2.8 million per year. Now this is very important because if this increase is approved, it will still take 15 years to build the 70 miles of roads already certified for construction and to keep up the necessary maintenance according to the Department of Secondary Roads. Many of the existing recreation roads have already been used up as far as their design life. With over eight million park visitors per year there exists a serious need for financial help for the road program. I urge your support of LB 171.

SENATOR KAHLE: Senator Sieck.

SENATOR SIECK: Mr. President and members of the body, I, too, stand in support of this bill. I should maybe say I would not support it because most of my roads as far as the recreational roads in the area that I serve are built. But I realize that there are many areas in the state that are not built, and this fifty cents that we are asking is very little as far as I am concerned. But it does amount to quite a bit if you add it all together. So I just feel with the high cost of the roads and this is the first increase that we have had for many, many years, and the road cost has tripled, tripled and quadrupled in this period of time. So to build a mile of road today costs about \$150,000 where just a few years ago it was about \$30,000. So there is quite a difference. I would like to name you some of the areas that we have built in this particular area surrounding Lincoln. We have completed a Stagecoach Road that let's you go into Stagecoach. We have completed the Pawnee Lake Road