

January 29, 1974

CLERK: 31 ayes, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: The motion prevails.

CLERK: Mr. President. I move to return LB 699 to Select File for specific amendment (Signed) Senator DeCamp.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DECAMP: Members of the Legislature. 699 is the coyote bill, and I supported this bill originally and voted for it. And since that time, I have received probably 30 to 35 phone calls and almost as many letters. From farmers and ranchers who argue that they do not like to be surrounded and have their property shot in to, and be shot at without their permission. And so the amendment that I have proposed is very simple. All it says is that before they can shoot in to or on to a particular farmer's property, they have to get that farmer's permission. And I think before I, before I go any further possibly I should explain how the coyote hunting works. You have two forms. You have the coyote hunters that use the rifles and travel in groups of, Oh anywhere from 10 to 40. And then you have the coyote hunters that use strictly dogs and usually carry no weapons. The coyote hunters that use the rifles, and Senator Rasmussen knows, found the difficulty in that they utilize roadway to do their hunting almost exclusively. They will surround a quarter section with maybe a half a dozen trucks and 25 or 30 hunters and then they wait for the coyote to break in to the open running across the land, and then much like the Vietnam War they start blasting away at this creature running whenever he breaks into the open. There is an unfortunate part in this, that in the middle of these quarter sections, generally located are farm families, houses, cows, people, etc., and they are reluctant to be involved in the hunt. Which is apparently getting done at this time. So as I say, this amendment would only make it so that before they can begin shooting and blasting away into this area, they would have to receive the permission of the farmer. Now I did do over this with Senator Rasmussen. And Senator Rasmussen explained to me that this is already in the law. That they can't do this, and that if I would only consult with the Attorney General that there would be no problem. That he didn't want to clutter up the bill, because it was already in the law. So I did do that. A little while ago I went to the Attorney General and he says. The Attorney General representative I talked to, who is going to try to come up with a written opinion by tomorrow. His explanation was, Once you have given them the permission to hunt from the roadside implydly, as I understand it, you have given them the permission to blast into the farmer's yard, or wherever. This particular representative of the Attorney General's office, did not feel that there was anything in the law that would prohibit that, and so with this understanding, I would hope that Senator Rasmussen would support the amendment, which would both strengthen his bill, protect the farmers, and still allow his bill to go ahead.

PRESIDENT: Senator Rasmussen, then Senator Syas, then Senator Whitney.

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: Mr. Speaker, and members of the body. I will support this amendment of Senator DeCamps. I can't see that it is needed, but I don't think it will hurt anything. But as far as blasting in the farmsteads. That will still be done regardless of the laws. If anybody is careless enough to do it. But I will support you, John.