

March 11, 1974

SENATOR WILTSE: I have in my possession letters from the representation from the towns of Ord, from the towns of Gering, North Platte, Chadron, Plattsmouth, Kearney, Minopa, in each case we have support of this bill. And the Westman Sportsman Club consisting of about 15 towns are in support of the bill. Of course, this does include the majority of sportsmen. But with the bill as is drawn at the present time, we have no conflict with the present laws, and I see no reason why it shouldn't be given serious consideration and passed as is.

PRESIDENT: Now, Senator Anderson.

SENATOR ANDERSON: Mr. President and members of the Legislature. I'd like to rise in opposition of the motion to strike the enacting clause on LB 779. I think I made it clear in our debate on LB699 with the so-called coyote bill, that I am very strongly opposed to road hunting. And in that particular case we're talking about a depredation control problem only. The point I'd like to make here is that I continue to be opposed to road hunting of any kind, but the kind of road hunting that we are talking about is where somebody is using automobiles, driving around using that to locate birds. And this of course, in my mind is an activity of somebody who does not deserve the title of sportsman. But in thinking about this, and I think you picked this up from the discussion already. And I think that road hunting already occurs, even though shooting a bird in the road or ditch is illegal. What we are saying is that we haven't stopped road hunting now. LB779 is not going to increase the amount of road hunting, instead all we are trying to do is for the purposes of those persons who are legitimate and they do get out and walk for their birds attempt to work to find them are opening a little bit more cover, and I don't think that it's going to amount to very much at all, but I think the real point to remember is, have we really stopped road hunting right now, and I think the answer is no. Therefore, I think that we're not going to be increasing the amount of road hunting, by passing this bill, and I think it does deserve the passage.

PRESIDENT: Speaker Proud.

SPEAKER PROUD. Well, I'll have to disagree with Senator Warner on this, and agree with Senator Mahoney and Senator Wiltse. Only for one reason, I as a kind of a poor hunter, I couldn't hit one with a bushel basket but, a..I ..I'm strongly in favor of protecting the farmer's rights. At the same time we don't have in my judgement enough public land in Nebraska. I think we ought to have more. I've done my share of hunting pheasants. I've never, I never net very many. But much land in Nebraska is posted and I'm sure a lot of it is because there is always a few hunters who don't respect the law. I've seen them and you have too. But since there is not much public land in Nebraska where the hunter can hunt, I think it would be wonderful if he could hunt from the road. I understand this bill does not affect the traveled portion of the road. Is that right, Senator Wiltse. He would have to hunt from the ditch. And I think that would be a good thing for the hunter, and Senator Anderson suggests that they do it anyway, and so I'm in favor. I'm not in favor of returning the bill.

PRESIDENT: Senator Mahoney, now did you want to be heard again. All right. Anybody else want to be heard on the motion to return the bill. Senator Warner do you have any closing on your motion