

February 28, 1979

LB 435

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Rumery, do you wish to speak to the Committee amendments?

SENATOR RUMERY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, a question of Senator Reutzel, please.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Reutzel.

SENATOR REUTZEL: Yes.

SENATOR RUMERY: Is not...do we not already have laws that prevent this infraction we're talking about? Is it simply a matter of enforcement?

SENATOR REUTZEL: It is a matter of enforcement as I explained. We've got several people hunting on one permit. Now the excuse is they're hunting some other nongame animal. This takes away for nine days during the year...during rifle deer season. It takes away that excuse so the conservation officer can enforce the laws that are on the books. As it is now, they're helpless.

SENATOR RUMERY: The...this bill then would simply mandate that during the deer season anyone walking around out there, with a gun, would have to have a deer license. Is this right?

SENATOR REUTZEL: If you're carrying a rifle and in the actual... if you're engaged in hunting and you're carrying a rifle, you need a deer permit for those nine days. You can go out and hunt nongame animals. You can go out and hunt any other thing with a rifle, or any other nongame animal with a shotgun. It doesn't...it does not prohibit hunting during those nine days, except with a rifle.

SENATOR RUMERY: Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator...Senator Dworak.

SENATOR DWORAK: Mr. President and colleagues, the...what I'm hearing from my constituents is that we need more enforcement of our game laws, that there are too many violations, and there are not enough conservation officers. There's all kinds of violations and abuses going on that are bothering the peace and mind of people in the countryside, and this bill is one of those tools that are going to help those conservation officers enforce the laws we have right now. We're talking about nine days in a year...a possibility of nine days in a year. It's an enforcement tool to allow them to do the job we charge them