

April 12, 1979

LB 542

that I've had to pork barrel since I've been in this body, and I wouldn't want to lose it, but if you know this park that they are proposing to buy, it's been under private system and been public. The park is developed. It has almost anything there that you would want to utilize in terms of camping and facilities, and for us to turn this down at this time, I think would be an absolute folly, because your major population is in the considerable part of the eastern part of the state, and I know what the Game and Parks Commission is attempting to do. They have an opportunity to purchase this park at a reasonable price. It's developed. The only thing it would need from henceforth if the state were to use Bureau of Outdoor Recreation funds to match the purchase price would be some maintenance. It lends itself not only to adults but also to youth, particularly in outdoor education. Therefore I would rise to oppose Senator Dworak's motion. I suggest if he feels that it's nothing but wilderness and needs a great deal of development, that he should take a little time and go down and look at that facility, because it may be one of the best buys the state is ever going to get, so I oppose Senator Dworak's amendment.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, a little more explanation also on the area. The request for this was not contained in the agency's original request. I believe the reason it was not...well, I'm quite sure the reason it was not is that as you can well understand, as we all understand in the negotiation of the purchase of property frequently there is a great deal of negotiation of work that is done before anything is finalized or put together. As Senator Koch has pointed out, there are two tracts involved, and one tract is an existing summer camp area with cabins, swimming pools, or a swimming pool, other equipment that is appropriate for that kind of a facility, and there is also a wooded area along the river that's involved as well that's very suitable. The agency did come in as I indicated after the budget request to call this to the committee's attention as to whether or not this was a desirable piece of ground to purchase for the development of a park, and I quite agree with Senator Koch that probably it's a unique piece of ground in terms of what it might cost for development because there can only be a minimal cost, as most of the facilities are already there. The match for this money came from some of the leftover match of gifts they have