

April 12, 1979

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had...I believe it was Fontenelle Park, somebody might correct...or Fontenelle area in Omaha, and somebody can correct me, but at least there was private donations that were able to be used for matching the federal funds for the acquisition of the land. I have no doubt but what it will become a very major state park at some point, because I think it's uniquely situated to do exactly that. While I'm...the other thing that attracts me about it is the fact that I always oppose without exception the acquisition of park area by eminent domain. In this case there is a very appropriate site that is a willing buyer and a willing seller at a very reasonable price, and I think it's appropriate that the state approve the Game Commissions's proposal in this area and I would urge the body not to adopt Senator Dworak's motion. One other comment, while I'm on my feet, so there's no concern, and there's no...not concern, but no misunderstanding, I too am very willing to discuss every portion of the bill that anyone wishes to question. It's a very healthy thing and to whatever extent anybody wants to, I would be glad to participate as I'm sure every member of the body is. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Reutzel.

SENATOR REUTZEL: Mr. President and members of the body, I rise in opposition to the Dworak proposal. The park that we're talking about, Senator Koch has hit it on the head, it's a very good piece of land. It's something near Omaha, and the Omaha senators who aren't aware of it ought to take a good look at it. You don't have any facilities up in that area and this will provide recreational facilities for your City of Omaha where we have the largest concentration of population. The overall plan for that park is about 1800 acres as I recall, and a great deal of that, if not the majority of that acreage, is donated land, but it doesn't do any good to have 40 acres here and 100 acres over there, and 300 acres scattered over here unless you have the connecting land, and this money which is federal money, is going to go to purchase that land to interconnect all those other parcels. We've got a tremendous opportunity here for the city of Omaha, for eastern Nebraska, and I urge you to reject the Dworak amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Cullan. Alright, the Chair recognizes Senator Kelly.

SENATOR KELLY: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, Senator Dworak has referred to my position on the