

May 2, 1979

LB 11

SENATOR NICHOL: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to ask Senator Reutzel a question, but....

PRESIDENT: Senator Reutzel, will you respond?

SENATOR NICHOL:prior to asking him a question, every time I think of endangered species I think of dinosaurs. I don't know why. It's just because they were here a long time ago, and I just wonder how much better off we would be if we had dinosaurs today than if we let them become extinct several years ago. I think of, what is it, snail darters....I don't know if we have any in Nebraska, but if we do I hope they become extinct before we want to build another dam or anything of that type of construction because if they can hold it up in Tennessee or wherever it was, I suppose they would be here. Senator Reutzel, as you know many of us do not agree with the named endangered species in this state, and I think perhaps Senator Clark and you have disagreed very often as to what should and shouldn't be an endangered species, and I think perhaps that's part of your problem with this bill. We hate to see money being spent for a species that we don't think are endangered. Some of the endangered species in my area are considered pests and nuisance, and while I don't go around killing them because I don't even have a gun, I know that some people do kill what the state of Nebraska thinks endangered species are. What program do we have that we're spending \$25,000 on? What specifically are we doing?

SENATOR REUTZEL: Well Senator Nichol, the reference to the \$25,000 was Nebraska's share last year for matching fund. Now, offhand I can't tell you if that entire amount was utilized.

SENATOR NICHOL: And we're spending about \$50,000? Is that...

SENATOR REUTZEL: I think last year's appropriation was about \$55,000.

SENATOR NICHOL: Okay, what are we doing specifically with this money?

SENATOR REUTZEL: You know, Senator, that's a good question and I don't have it on my desk. I wish I had the answer. I don't have it on my desk though.