

programs in this manner. That was a real concern. That was one of the fear tactics used to try to defeat the bill. Well, to this date no agency, no arm of that government has ever come in and asked for an additional checkoff program in that manner. Now, I can't predict what will happen in Nebraska. I can only tell you what has happened in other states which have done this. This has been the only one. I think the rationale...the rationale here is that we have hunters and fishermen in this state who pay for fishing licenses. They pay for hunting licenses. They pay for habitat stamps, and they are funding those programs for those game animals. They are putting a direct input into those programs, but for those who don't hunt or who don't fish, who like to go out and hike, they like to go out and perhaps take pictures, they like to go out and observe the wildlife in observation towers, or wherever, they don't have state-wide program to fund. They have to rely on the hunter and the fishermen, and the habitat stamps, and this is just another avenue for them.

SENATOR BEUTLER: But there is no reason that you can think of why in the other states they could not, the other agencies could not come back in and request the same kind of program?

SENATOR REUTZEL: Oh, they certainly could, Senator, they certainly could. I mean, I'm not saying that no one will. This certainly....but this is the same fear that they had in Colorado and it hasn't happened there. I don't know that it would happen here. I can't say yes or no that it would. I can only say that in Colorado when the same fear was expressed it hasn't happened.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. Well, logically I can't see why it would not happen, but I thank you for your answers.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Rumery.

SENATOR RUMERY: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I'd like to have a few questions of Senator Reutzel again. Most everybody on the floor has taken a crack at this, and I guess maybe I should have mine. Senator Reutzel, there are some details about this funding that I don't thoroughly understand. First of all, the money would come from money that the state of Nebraska is returning to the taxpayer....

SENATOR REUTZEL: Yes.