

April 14, 1980

LB 993

through the Claims Board for hay or other forage that was eaten by wildlife throughout the state.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Kahle.

SENATOR KAHLE: Well, Mr. Speaker, members, I really don't want to argue this issue with Senator Warner because I think basically he is probably right but we did hear this in the Business and Labor Committee and one of the problems we had was that the Game and Parks Commission did buy hay with the funding that they have available. Now I am not sure, Senator Warner, if they spent all the excess money or the emergency money they had or not. I understood that they did. And what came across to us was the fact that some farmers got paid for their hay and some didn't, and just because the Game Commission came in and bought stacks of hay and let the animals eat it, that to me does not justify them or the other landowner next door, the next ranch, not receiving pay for his hay and that was the reason we passed the bill on out to the legislative floor. I would much rather, too, have the emergency funding go to the Game and Parks Commission and they settle their own problems but evidently that isn't what happened. So I think it is very unfair that one rancher got paid and another one didn't and that is the reason that I supported the payment of this funding to the ranchers. And, of course, as far as setting a precedent, I think we will have to admit that last winter was a terrible winter and, of course, when the winter is bad, well that is when hay prices are high and the loss is much greater to the rancher than it would have been for instance this year when there is an abundance of hay and a pretty open winter until the last few weeks. So I just wanted to visit with the body a bit. It doesn't sound like anybody is listening anyhow but it is unfair it looks to me like the way we handled it this year. Now if you want to provide a deficit appropriation to the Game and Parks Commission so that they can take care of it or if you think they have enough funding which they claim they don't to handle it, why I think it would be fine but I don't think it is fair that one rancher got paid and the other one didn't and the same animals ate up the hay, and those of you that are from the city may not realize but once the deer trample on that hay, it is not fit for livestock to eat. They will not touch it so the loss was great for those ranchers and I think we ought to do something about it.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator DeCamp.