

SENATOR WESELY: Okay, from my reading of the resolution though, Senator Rupp, oh, there he is. Senator Schmit, hi. Senator Schmit I am sure will answer this. Is..we studied the issue but if the whooping crane doesn't need the habitat, it would be removed or we would recommend that it be removed? So it is a study but it is also a position, too, isn't it?

SENATOR RUPP: You are reading that last line?

SENATOR WESELY: Yes. I guess I am saying that we study the issue and then if we find that the habitat area isn't needed, we would say do away with it, yes. Why don't you just go ahead. I'll just defer to Senator Schmit.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I apologize for not being here when the resolution was first raised. The resolution is a very simple resolution. As we know, in government, frequently we take an action, we place into motion certain operations and then unless we review those operations it just continues on and on and on without anyone ever doing anything about it and it serves no useful purpose. That is one of the reasons why we have in this body from time to time brought about the so-called sunset legislation, not because they want to necessarily terminate an agency or a department, but because we bring into play the necessary dialogue that gives us the opportunity to review whether or not the agency or the institution is fulfilling the responsibility that was once declared to be necessary. This resolution merely calls for a study to determine whether or not the designated area of the Platte River is necessary for the survival of the whooping crane and if it is not necessary, and I think that you can understand, Senator Wesely, that if it is not necessary, the department is going to be very cautious about that, of course, but if they say it is not necessary, we remove the designation. Now if someone says, what do you want to do that for? Well the reason is very simple. Anytime that you have a critical habitat designated such as this, any municipality, any power company that does anything that impacts upon the water of the Platte River must file feasibility studies, surveys, some of them very costly, to prove that what they are doing does not impact upon the critical area habitat of the whooping crane. I think we all