

where he came from. He said that we should allow this herd to grow. If there are only 200 or so, there would probably be 300 or so by the time the first season can be held, that we should let that herd expand down the Niobrara River into eastern Nebraska. And I guess I would just say in closing that Nebraska is not the state it was 150 or 200 years ago, that we do not have the room anymore with the 1.6 million people for a bunch of 800 up to 1,000 pound animals free-ranging. They don't go over fences. They go through fences. They do cause damage. There have been two car accidents reported in the Chadron area with this herd. So Nebraska is not Colorado. It is not Wyoming. It is not Montana. Obviously, it is a totally different landscape in our state, so we want the authority to allow Game and Parks to manage this herd as they see fit, hold it at the respectable caring capacity the amount of animals that landowners in the area will tolerate. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Any other discussion on the bill? If not, the question is the advancement of the bill. All those in favor vote aye...oh, excuse me, Senator Scofield, I didn't see your light. I'm sorry.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I rise to support Senator Rupp, and although none of you raised this question, I thought perhaps that some of you might be interested in what the people from the area where the elk are found feel about this particular bill. And I have tried to visit with at least a few of the landowners and people around the area and it has been widely publicized in the area and the reaction that I have had has generally been favorable to the idea of a limited elk season. I think people right now would agree with Senator Rupp that there isn't any need for an elk season at this time and no one is anxious to see the elk hunted at this point. Generally speaking, the landowners enjoy having them around. A lot of people are really intrigued with watching the elk, but there is some concern about should the population greatly increase that we do need some way to manage the herd and harvest a few of the elk. So with that, I would just urge you to vote in favor of this. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: If there is no further discussion on the matter, the question is, shall the bill advance? All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. The Clerk will record, please.