

for the protection of irrigators, then perhaps another agency is appropriate for that, but I think that's the problem that we have is that what does scenic river designation mean and what is the intent of this legislation, what is the intent of the body in trying to address the concern of scenic river designation? I think Senator Lindsay has pointed out, by naming Game and Parks Commission as the oversight agency, a concern of many of us that the environment and habitat and instream flows and things like that ought to be of primary concern and that perhaps Game and Parks would have the ability and the capacity to address those concerns and not be representing only one particular interest group. And so I would encourage the body to seriously consider the Lindsay amendment and to adopt it. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Horgan. Senator Moore.

SENATOR MOORE: Mr. Speaker and members, I rise to oppose Senator Lindsay's amendment. When it comes down to a basic philosophy maybe we ought to really start talking about some basic philosophy on this bill as opposed to which agency you want to be the father of this whole plan. Now obviously if your intent is, I guess I believe the Conway amendment which I think is a step in the right direction. We're moving a little bit beyond just talking about a scenic river. We're talking about protection and water and what it means to the State of Nebraska, not just the scenic aspect, but incorporating the total package of what water is to the State of Nebraska which I think is something we need to do and if that's the direction and the philosophical bent you move forward on, then there is a big difference between the Game and Parks Commission and the Natural Resources Commission. Now to begin with, the Game and Parks Commission, what business are they in? I mean if your attitude of a scenic river, you want to have water slides and putting greens every ten miles, then you maybe ought to have the Game and Parks Commission in charge of it. But if your attitude is you want to develop a water package for the Niobrara that protects the agricultural interests, that protects the communities along there and has a valid state's interest in mind as well, then the logical place to do it is the Natural Resources Commission. I am very comfortable with that. And some people would lead you to believe the Natural Resources Commission is the ultimate in where local control is no control, they don't have any sort of state interests, they are so narrow minded, they're still farming with a two bottom plow and a mule. I think the Natural Resources Commission in the state has proved