Approved Inda Jens Date 3

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND SMALL BUSINESS

The meeting was called to order by Senator Fred A. Kerr at Chairperson

10:00 a.m./plank on Thursday, February 10, 1983, 19 in room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Ross Doyen (Excused) Senator Joe Norvell (Excused)

All

Committee staff present: Except Hank Avila

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Bill Hanzlick, Director, Kansas Fish and Game Commission Lloyd Fox " " " " " " " LeRoy Reeves, Fox and Wolf Hunters, Overland Park Warren Maddison, Leavenworth

Senator Arasmith moved the committee minutes of February 2 be approved, seconded by Senator Thiessen. Motion carried.

Director Bill Hanzlick introduced Lloyd Fox, the Commission's fur bearer biologist. Mr. Fox showed a number of slides of various animals trapped in Kansas and the construction of snares and conibear traps used. He also displayed various sizes of the snares and traps. Mr. Fox stated there are some 10,000 people who trap in the state, and there is an annual fur sale to dispose of the pelts. He stated snares should not be used where livestock are pastured. A larger conibear is placed under the ice or water surface in trapping for beavers. Mr. Fox stated in order for those born after July 1, 1966, to receive a fur harvest license, the applicant must complete a competency course. Answering a question, Mr. Fox stated the competency course is similar to the hunter's safety program and the Commission hopes to give it in each of the heavier populated counties, with the course being given in the western counties in various central regions.

Mr. Fox stated most trouble or problems arise from an individual improperly using snares or traps. If land is posted, the Commission can intercede in the reprimands or fines; otherwise, it is done on the landowner's complaint. He stated they did not monitor property damage. The eastern part of the state has more incidents of the improper or illegal use of traps with no identification and the devices are not checked every 24 hours, as required. An improper or illegal act is a Class C misdemeanor with a fine of up to \$500 and one month in jail; punishment is determined by the court.

LeRoy Reeves stated a trapper has a place if the equipment is used in its proper way and place. He feels a snare or trap is designed to kill all animals. Those set under water are not as dangerous as those set in the open, to which he is opposed. Hunting dogs are used on trails and as sporting dogs. He stated in his area they do not receive cooperation from the Fish and Game men nor from law officers. He feels they have to work together for the good of everyone.

Senator Gannon stated he has always received cooperation from the Fish and Game--it is the coyote hunters with whom his area has confrontations.

Warren Maddison stated he is opposed to traps and snares as he feels they are harmful.

Senator Kerr noted there is a House Bill introduced which addresses the snare issue (House Bill 2371).

The meeting was adjourned.

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SENATE

AGRICULTURE AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

'10:00 a.m., Room 423-S

Thursday, Feb. 10, 1983
Date

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