

STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

January 25, 1962

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, and Mr. Sundgren was introduced to discuss House Concurrent resolution No. 9.

Mr. Sundgren stated that this is a very simple resolution; that the government presently owns 110,000 acres of land along the Cimmaron River North of Elkhart; that the restoration of prairie grasses and plants has been accomplished and that it presently leased for limited grazing by certain livestock farmers in Morton County. This resolution proposes only that the government take a look at this acreage before spending millions of dollars on the proposed area in Pottawatomie County, and see if this land already owned might be suitable for the proposed Prairie Park.

The Chairman stated that it was his understanding that proceeds from the grazing leases were turned over to the county to compensate for the loss of taxes to the county.

Several members of the committee expressed their feelings that it would be good to utilize property already owned so as to avoid additional expense to the government. Mr. Marshall inquired if proceeds from park functions would revert to the county, but it was not possible to determine if this would be done. Mr. Gardner inquired if there had been any move by the government to sell this acreage, and Mr. Sundgren stated that not so far as he knew.

Thereupon, it was moved by Miss Jacquart that HCR 9 be recommended back to the House for Adoption. Motion was seconded by Mr. Bisbee, and upon vote, carried unanimously.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 9

By Mr. SUNDGREN

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION memorializing the congress of the United States to establish a national grasslands park in southwestern Kansas.

WHEREAS, Some citizens of Kansas want a grasslands park; some do not; and

WHEREAS, If those who want a grasslands park win out, then a grasslands park will be created; and

WHEREAS, Fortunately, the United States department of agriculture now holds approximately 110,000 acres of grassland in Morton county; and

WHEREAS, Even more fortunately the dedication of this non-populated grassland for park use would require no appropriation of tax money for its purchase; and

WHEREAS, In 100 years of statehood the population centers of Kansas have moved westward almost halfway across the state; and

WHEREAS, Before another 100 years this westward movement may shift the population centers to the areas of Hugoton, the gas capital of the world, to Liberal, the fastest growing city of Kansas, to Ulysses, Garden City, Scott City, Colby, Goodland, and to other areas of the western part of the state; and

WHEREAS, There are sound economic reasons for this population movement. Natural resources of gas, oil, helium, ground water, and fertile soil are plentiful. Healthful climate, space for pleasant living, and greater opportunities will attract people and industry; and

WHEREAS, Investment capital of the east is already aware of this potential, this being evidenced by the purchase of the Republic Natural Gas Company of the Hugoton gas field by Socony Mobil Oil Company, Atlantic Oil and Gas Corporation, East Wall Street Corporation, Long Point Corporation, and Mon-Dak Oil Corporation for a sale price of \$148,500,000, about two and one-fourth times the price recently received for the sale of the Empire State Building in New York; and

WHEREAS, Most tourists enter Kansas from the east and if it be true that a grasslands park would bring a more abundant crop of tourists to Kansas, then they should be permitted to travel the entire length of this golden state to see all of its attractions and beauty. And the citizens of Kansas across the entire state should enjoy equal opportunities to share in the tourist harvest: Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas, the Senate concurring therein: That we respectfully urge and request the congress of the United States to establish a national grasslands park in Morton county, Kansas; and

Be it further resolved, That the secretary of state be instructed to transmit a copy of this resolution to each member of the Kansas delegation in the senate and house of representatives of the United States, the vice-president of the United States, the speaker of the house of representatives of the United States, the secretary of the United States department of interior, and the secretary of the United States department of agriculture.