

May 2, 1975

of those counties I would suggest that we put in an amendment providing that those two counties may have their county board serve as weed boards. I would just like to speak to this briefly because the only reason that this subcommittee was set up by the Executive Board was to hear complaints that had been coming in. There had been numerous complaints coming in, especially with muskthistle and canadian thistle. Now the seeds of these are windborne. If you don't have a complete control, by complete I mean if every landowner does not make an effort to control these than an isolated patch when it does seed can be borne by the wind and innoculate and seed the whole countryside that's near there. We had numerous complaints coming in to various legislators. The Executive Board decided to hold some hearings, which it did. We had people come from as far away as Sioux County to these hearings. We put together some figures. Last year, with only 53 counties reporting, some of these that had county boards as weed boards did not report as they are expected to to the Department of Agriculture. We have, from their own reports, 56,000 acres infested with noxious weeds of crop lands and more than 3/4 million acres of pasture lands infected with noxious weeds. I think this indicates the severity of the problem. It also indicates very little is being done about it in many areas. I think that in order to strengthen this program we're going to have to provide that each county have an elected weed board. I'm suggesting, in my amendment on the desk, that they work in conjunction with the county board to hire this director who shall be certified by the Director of Agriculture, so that we have some uniformity in this control program. Senator Schmit, if you want to go ahead and adopt the committee amendments with the understanding that maybe we can adjust this particular part, I'll support you on it. Otherwise, I'll write out an amendment and we'll try it now.

PRESIDENT: Senator Lewis, the Clerk advises me that it appears as if your amendment goes to the bill rather than to the committee amendment. Is that your understanding?

SENATOR R. LEWIS: No sir, because . . .

PRESIDENT: Oh, your amendment does go to the committee amendment?

SENATOR R. LEWIS: It would have to because the committee amendment reinstates the matter where we . . .

PRESIDENT: Well then proceed.

CLERK: The first line on your amendment, Senator, is on page 9, line 5, and the committee amendment are only 6 pages long.