

May 9, 1983

LB 154

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Vickers, would you like to close on your motion?

SENATOR VICKERS: Yes, Mr. President, I think I better. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, first of all I think it is rather strange that Senator Schmit has suddenly come up with such an objection to the bill after we get it to this point and stage and I understand that he is objecting to the bill whether we have the amendment on it or not. But let me point out to Senator Schmit and others, that the law, the law does not treat Douglas County, does not treat Lancaster County different than it treats Frontier County or Burt County or Dodge County or any other county. If there is a problem in administering the law, then I think what Senator Schmit is advocating is that we have a state wide weed authority rather than a local weed authority. Now with the problem that Senator Kahle pointed out how sometimes control is not working out too great then I would think a statewide weed authority would be even less responsive to those types of problems as Senator Kahle pointed out. So I quite frankly would oppose doing away with the local weed authorities and having a statewide authority. On the other hand, on the other hand as Senator Schmit pointed out, there are entities of government that had the musk thistle problems, including the City of Omaha and I saw those also. But it seems to me if we set up a mechanism like this, the weed authority will be able to collect some funds from perhaps these other entities of government. True it will cost some dollars. It will cost some dollars, but right now what have we got? We don't have any teeth at all. There is no teeth out there. Now in Douglas County, in Douglas County, maybe they won't now because of all of the terrible shortfalls that I understand they are going to have but in Douglas County they have got more funds than they have got in Frontier County or Furnas County, Senator Schmit, and they go out, the county authorities up there, if they want too, they can go out and clean up their problem. Right now. Under the present system. But in Furnas County or Frontier county they don't have the funds. The county authorities hands are tied. They can't go out and clean up the railroad, if a railroad doesn't do it, they can raise all kinds of fuss, they can act like they are going to do something great, but they don't have the funds to go out and clean it up. They plain don't have the funds from the county, they don't have the ability to do it whether they hire the Schmit Spraying Service or whether they do it themselves. They just plain don't have the dollars. True they are going to get them back but there is that lag time in there and that is the problem. There in lies the problem. So what we are trying to do and we also have to recognize, I think, under the

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