

PRESIDENT: Senator Schmits light was on first Senator Richendifer.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President, members of the legislature, I support the amendment and just for the record, I want everyone to know that I spray weeds with those helicopters also, and if they get into the sandhills I'm going to have a multi-million dollar business, so if we can stamp out that musk thistle before it gets that far it will put me out of business but it will be good for the state of Nebraska. I think the amendment ought to be passed.

PRESIDENT: Senator Richendifer.

SENATOR RICHENDIFER: Mr. President, Members of the Legislature, last year I put a musk thistle on Senator Barnett's desk that I picked off the curb out here and that was just one. He thought that it was a dandelion, but for you people from the city, if you have ever been in the areas where these are infested, this is a terrible weed. Probably worse than marijuana. I would also suggest that if the knowledge that is gained here by this that we share it with South Dakota, these people that live along the South Dakota boarder get seeded every year from South Dakota. They do not have musk thistle laws. If we passed a real hard law, it would break most of these farmers up along the northern border. I would move for the adoption of this.

PRESIDENT: Senator Clark.

SENATOR CLARK: Yeah, I would speak against the amendment. The reason that I would is because the committee decided that we would put the graduate assistant in which is \$15,000. So it is already in the budget to start with. The weed specialist at \$33,000 was not for the south central station was not in the request of the University at all. The weed physiologists of \$30,000 is not in the request either. Currently the physiologists that we have there as an on-going program we have the necessary funds in there for it. So certainly I would oppose the amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Nore.

SENATOR NORE: Mr. President, fellow members, I think that we already have the proper legal authority, our weed supervisors and we have a know-how to do away with these musk thistles, and I hope that you might just put a fire under the weed supervisors in our counties. They are not doing their jobs, they are not enforcing the law. I don't think that all of the research in the world is going to help us any. What we need to do in the first...is to enforce the statutes that we have now. We can do that, we have the power to do it if the weed supervisors will do it. But they are not doing it.

PRESIDENT: Senator Burbach.

SENATOR BURBACH: Mr. President, members of the legislature, about twelve or fourteen years ago this body recognized the severity of the musk thistle. Senator John Altencamp told this body about it in south-eastern Nebraska. Since that time it covered much of the state. It is a very serious problem. After that time Senator Carpenter introduced a weed district law bill. This has been working fine, however, we still need additional funds for this research and for whatever provisions