

March 12, 1980

LB 918

Department of Agriculture program as is presently envisioned. The bill, LB 918, simply provides several things. First of all, it allows the department to enter into a contract with both the federal government and the ranchers for the spraying of the grasshoppers and then, secondly, it provides for the setting up of the fund. Now I think there would be a tremendous amount of problems involved if we were to try to follow the Burrows approach. The principal reason being for participation by the state in the first place is much the way Senator Beutler spoke of and that is that where an individual farmer or rancher can successfully take care of the problem that is our responsibility and we should be willing to meet it. The only time and the only really credible reason we have for this program is that the problem out there is one of such vast size and with the rangeland being the many different faceted parcels that they are today, it makes it very difficult for one rancher to go out and do an effective job of spraying without involving his neighbors. So the federal government felt some time ago that this was an effective method. I will say that they had some difficulty last year. I think that Mr. Stewart and his people have worked very diligently to try to erase those problems and I have spent some time with him. I think I have a little experience in this area and I am glad to assist them further in the future if they need it but I would have to oppose the Burrows amendment and I ask that you just stick with Senator Nichol's bill in the original form. Again, I want to say I have to oppose the Burrows amendment because I do not think that where an individual farmer or rancher can meet his responsibility without the cooperation of his neighbors that the state or the federal government has a responsibility to assist him. I know it sounded like Senator Beutler was in favor of grasshoppers but that is not true. He was in favor of those farmers exercising their responsibility and I agree with him to that extent.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Haberman.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President, fellow colleagues, Senator Burrows, you made one statement that I would like to comment on. You made the statement about ten thousand acres and some ranchers being cut out. I would like to call to your attention, it is economically unfeasible to spray less than ten thousand acres under the program that we have going and, number two, out in that part of the country ten thousand acres to the ranchers, it covers a vast, vast majority of them. So one of the reasons is due to economics is to have