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LB 918

the ten thousand acres in the bill. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Nichol, we are speaking to the Burrows amendment.

SENATOR NICHOL: Mr. Speaker, I simply object to the amendments of Senator Burrows and there are others that wish to speak so I will make mine short. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Clark.

SENATOR CLARK: Well you talk about someone that is confused, Mr. President, and it is me. About two years ago I begged for \$40,000 for the grasshopper control, \$40,000. It costs about a dollar and a half an acre and the federal government puts in a third, the state put in a third and the rancher put in a third. They have to collect their money some time in February in order to get this money out. The problem was not with the state or not with the rancher. The problem was the federal government. They did not even have the planes or the spray when they had to do it. That is where the problem came in but the thing I am confused about is \$2,000,000 or \$1,000,000. I can't even fathom this kind of money going out for grasshopper control. The reason they have the ten thousand acres out there, if you didn't participate with them, one farmer would do it and those around him would not do it and it would do no good to control on the ten thousand acres unless they all did it. So they tried to get all of them at one time to do it and you can see by the maps that they did this but certainly I will agree with Senator Schmit. The smaller farmers can control them. They do out there now. The croplands they control. The reason they allowed ten percent croplands is because that is overlapping into a block. That is the only reason they allow that because the grasshoppers attack the grass, not the crops. The only time they attack the crops is when the grass is gone. If we have a good wet spring this year we won't have any grasshoppers and that determines whether you are going to have grasshoppers. If we have a dry spring this year, there is a lot of eggs out there and they count these. They have a spring and a summer count on these grasshoppers. It takes eight per square yard to have an infestation. I have had them up to sixteen in my area and trying to get \$40,000 was impossible two years ago. Last year it was a mess because of the federal government, the way they operated it. If the state takes this over they can do the job but I don't see how you can ever justify \$1,000,000 or \$2,000,000 in this program. It doesn't take that much