

SENATOR BURROWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, members of the body, this bill grew from a little nest egg a couple of years ago to \$2,000,000 per year for spraying grasshoppers and the center of this bill, the bill as is without my amendment, is the fact that the federal guidelines for the cost share required a ten thousand acre package or the entire area of infestation. What it did, they may have been well intentioned but when they came with these federal guidelines they ended up putting the substance of this money into the largest farm or ranch operations in the state. They struck out land that had more than 10% cropland and with these two criteria they directed the money to help those that are most able to take care of their natural disasters themselves. Second, it is nothing but a federal experiment on grasshopper spraying. They have not produced evidence that I can believe show it economical to spray grasshoppers on ranchland and ranchland only protecting grass. I have never found it so in my farm operation to find it profitable to spray or economical to spray grasshoppers off of grassland. I have a share of this too, however, I can't participate because I don't have that 90% grassland and no farmer in my district or eastern Nebraska can. The amendment would shift this set of funds, the \$2,000,000, put a limitation of \$500 on it and allow all farmers and ranchers in the state to participate up to the tune of \$500 on 50% share on chemicals in an area approved by the Extension Service where the need is shown and approved, then apply for the refund of that money spent on half the chemicals. I think if the federal program is going to, and we are not tying the hands of the federal program in going ahead with their cost share with the rancher, but I think it is important that the State of Nebraska spend its funds across the entire state and not participate in a program that takes care of the wealthiest and gives nothing to those that are lesser advantaged. They say the family farm units can pay for their own spraying. We've got a lot of farmers that are going to go broke this year and a lot of them medium and small sized units and that \$200 or \$500 spray bill may be just as important as the 10 or 20,000 paid by one of the largest ranch units in the state. Are we out to subsidize the Kiewit Land Company, the Monahan Cattle Company and so forth across the state, make it available for them and not do a cent for the smaller units of the state? This amendment is that issue. Whether you want to redistribute that money to the broad scope of agriculture with them with the limitation upon the expenditure. It is that simple and I ask you to support the amendment, shift the direction of this self-help program to those that need it most.

SENATOR CLARK PRESIDING