

we get into. The discussion in the committee was recognizing the state law currently permits up to one-third, but the discussion centered around what was an appropriate match of the operator, owner of property and federal or state assistance. It was discussed and pointed out the fact that there was a variety of other insects that create problems such as green bugs or root worm or what have you which are totally paid for out of . . . .of operators costs. So the committee, the majority felt that a 50-50 match was not an unreasonable match. The reason for putting the one-sixth in was to insure the one-sixth plus the one-third federal was a 50-50 match for this purpose. The effect of course, if the amendment is adopted and if the department would chose to go up to the one-third then we are significantly reducing the number of acres that could be sprayed if they chose to reimburse at the full one-third percent. The key factor is whether or not assistance in this kind of spraying should be at a 50-50 level or a one-third operator, two-thirds assistance level from the two other levels of government. It seems to me that it was a split vote in the committee. It seems to me that the conclusion is not unreasonable for the kind of 50-50 match that is proposed with the bill and without Senator Lamb's amendment.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Schmit, would you like to speak on this amendment?

SENATOR SCHMIT: I would like to comment, Mr. President and members of the Legislature, because I believe that it gets to be a little difficult sometimes for those individuals who represent western Nebraska to stand up here and do what appears to be a pleading for equity in this kind of an instance. I just want to say that the problem out there is a major one, it is greater than perhaps some of you realize. I want to point out also that there were substantial amounts of funds that were returned, or that were not used last year. Those funds are being reappropriated if and when these funds are not needed they will not be used. I want to point out again that those of us in eastern Nebraska face a different type of problem in the matter of pest control. I have said many times and it is not a matter of one not knowing the record but I have had some experience in the area of pest control and I think that the original proposal by the Department of Agriculture was a fair one. I think that the attempt by the budget committee to deal with the problem was no doubt made in good faith. But I would suggest, as it has been explained to me several times that unless you actually view the problem and review the difficulties that face those people in that part of the state that it is very difficult to understand it. I know that I could take that budget and pick it apart many, many times and in many, many