

April 8, 1980

LB 918

SENATOR NICHOL: The Department of Agriculture will now handle the program and would do their bidding as they see fit as I understand the program. Now the program is already in gear as you perhaps know. They have been having meetings across the state where farmers and ranchers have been attending indicating their desire to be in the program, not signing up that they will do it because it is not known yet whether or not we will have a grasshopper problem. The indications are that we will have a problem but as far as the biddings are concerned, the Department of Agriculture will have that, and I would think that they would seek that since they do have time enough to do that.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Is there anything that would preclude them from having a written bidding procedure?

SENATOR NICHOL: No, they may have it. Yes, they may have it. I would think they would want...

SENATOR BEUTLER: Would it be wrong to require it?

SENATOR NICHOL: No, I don't think it is required that they do it but I would think that they would do it.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Do you see any problem with requiring that it be done?

SENATOR NICHOL: Well I do see a problem at this late date within fifteen minutes to change that.

SENATOR BEUTLER: No, not this minute but if I wanted to do that on Select is there any...I guess I'm just looking for, is there any impractical reason why...?

SENATOR NICHOL: No, I would be very happy to visit with them to see if there is any reason why they should not do it. I don't think of any at the moment but if you would like to have that inserted it...to cooperate with you between now and Select.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Fowler.

SENATOR FOWLER: Mr. President, two quick points. I had handed out a memo from legislative fiscal staff indicating existing statutes that the Department of Agriculture could utilize for this program. So I think that there is plenty of existing authority. The one thing that 918 does do is I think the language is still in there that requires one third, one third, one third match and although for this current year the budget bill doesn't provide that. If we pass this bill in future years funding would have to be