

speakers. Next in order was Senator Schmit. Do you wish to speak to the Vickers amendment to the amendment, Senator Schmit?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Well, Mr. President and members of the Legislature, the battle of the musk thistle has been going on for a good 20 years and I would guess that it is not going to be terminated with the passage of LB 459, but I admire the Ag Committee and Senator Vickers for their efforts in that direction. I really in most instances think that the county weed boards have done a good job, although there have been some notorious exceptions. I guess that...and I am not being critical because I recognize the nature and scope of the problem having been involved in this kind of work for many years, I recognize how difficult it is to control a noxious weed. But I would have to ask Senator Warner a question, if he would yield, please. Senator Warner, if this bill becomes law (recorder malfunction) amendments, would that mean that Douglas County could be deprived of its county road funds? And, if so, how much money would that amount to?

SENATOR WARNER: Well, to answer your question, as I understand the bill, is you asked how much money it would amount to would...I would have to check to be absolutely sure, Loran. It is in the millions, I can tell you that, but, well, several hundred thousand. It's over...but I don't recall specifically Douglas County's allocation.

SENATOR SCHMIT: I guess Senator Vickers has an opinion that this is constitutional. I have no quarrel whatsoever. I think we ought to do something about it, but I think that we ought to recognize that Douglas County...and, again, I am not being critical, I am just being factual, is one of our most serious offenders and the problem there is a serious one because of the terrain and the difficulty in spraying the city and rooting out those thistles. And so I guess I hope that at least the Legislature will discuss this and debate it very thoroughly because I would hope that we do not enact another law that is not in force. I think Senator Vickers enacted a bill last year into law, or the year before, that provided for a \$50 per day penalty for anyone who didn't take care of his musk thistles. I think that that would have provided millions of dollars of revenue to certain subdivisions had that been enforced and it, obviously, was not. So I guess I would have to ask Senator