

really struggled with how we could either make the program better or do away with the program completely, as I think the Department of Ag would like to do or, at least, get their role in this whole program lessened to a point where they would only be permissive in participation. I don't know if Senator Vickers' concept is the best. It happens to be the best that was presented at the time that the committee heard the bill and discussed it and I guess if somebody else has a better idea as to how we can make this program effective, I would sure like to hear it. This is the best that we could come up with in the short time that we had in discussing it during committee hearings.

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: I am hoping that we can think this thing through. I would suggest that we probably...if you don't adopt Senator Vickers' amendment to the committee amendment and don't adopt the committee amendment, I suppose the bill then goes back to the original contents which would allow the Department of Ag to get out of the program, basically. So if that is what you want to do, I would suggest you reject the committee amendments. But if you are interested in seeing this program working better than it is right now, I suppose you might want to adopt Senator Vickers' amendment and the committee amendments and then advance the bill. And maybe between now and Select File we will rehash this issue over in private quarters and try and come up with maybe a better program or a better idea as to how to make the program effective.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Schmit, on the amendment to the amendment.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members, I want to just comment again because I believe it is important, there are problems that might be involved and that is we all know that there are some individuals who own property who probably will not have the financial means to control the thistles this year. In effect then we will be punishing the county for the failure of an individual. I know also there are individuals who perhaps wait until it is too late, till the thistles have matured, the blossoms have begun to scatter their seed and still think they can comply by mowing or knocking down the plants. I think it is a problem which is a very serious one and, as Senator Johnson has said, you