

SENATOR MOREHEAD: Mr. President and members of the body. I probably should have called the question because this is the kind of debate that is holding us up that Senator Nichol was talking about. But this is a very important issue and one not to be dealt with lightly. We wrangled the other day about whether to give cities a half cent sales taxing increase ability and what that could do to the rural people and their costs, but I tell you this more directly affects those people and their costs of production of overhead than that half cent sales taxing ability. I concur with Senator Schmit and some of the others that additionally oppose Senator Sieck's amendment. I can realize his concerns and possibly they need to be addressed but not in this fashion at this late a date. This is a significant issue and for the control of our pasturelands, especially our pasturelands, I think in many parts of our state this would imply costs that our rural people cannot handle right now. Now, I have had calls on this but they have not come from any organized group of individuals. Now, no one of the farm organizations, in fact, maybe the farm organizations had been so busy with Initiative 300 and some of the other issues that they haven't seen this significant issue right here. I would hope that they would have seen it. Senator Sieck, out of everybody in this...out of every person in this body...we are down to the last days, aren't we, out of every person or any person in this body, is certainly known for his conservation efforts and he has received many fine awards and should be commended for those. His practices in caring for our land and all are exemplary and many of our rural people should strive to attain those, so this is a natural for him to bring before us. But I do believe that it is too significant and the implications of it are too significant right now. I have had the opportunity to oversee teams of nieces and nephews as we have tried to eradicate musk thistles via the old fashioned hard way. And I will tell you it is pretty frustrating when you get about nine kids out there, each with a pack on their back and try to keep the stuff off them and on the thistle and try to get the thistle out at the right time of year and then be right across the river from Missouri who has no musk thistle law and see those seeds blow right across the river and then you are right back out there with those nine kids the next year. So it made for a good familiar relationship but I believe that this is one of the ways that our pasturelands can be controlled of this noxious weed and many others and so I don't believe we should adopt it at this time. Give us a chance to study it further. Please oppose the amendment. Thank you.