

May 2, 1975

SENATOR MILLS: Mr. President, I do understand. Senator Schmit, in the counties that I happen to represent, or at least a few of them, I have had messages from the county commissioners opposing this bill, consequently opposing the amendment. In those areas, or at least several of them, we have had boards (weed boards). They operated so inefficiently and did such a terrible job that the county commissioners took over that particular job. Does your amendment now say that we will have to reinstate another board?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Senator Mills, my amendment, the committee amendment, provides that those counties which are presently operating as the . . . the county boards that are presently operating as the county weed board may continue to do so. That would allow those counties who have had bad experiences with county weed boards to continue. What Senator Lewis wants to do is to only allow Douglas and Sarpe county to operate in that manner and to require the other counties to all appoint a weed board.

SENATOR MILLS: My amendment here is so bad that I can't read it. They would not have to go through an electoral process then, or they could stay just the way they are with the county commissioners running the weed district? Is that correct?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Under my amendment, that is correct, but there is a provision in the committee amendment, Senator Mills, that provides that if the citizens of the county are unhappy with the way the county board is operating they can petition for an election and go back to the other system.

SENATOR MILLS: Then there would not be any election, unless there was a petition?

SENATOR SCHMIT: That is right.

SENATOR MILLS: Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator George Syas of Omaha.

SENATOR SYAS: As I understand it, I'm going to be brief because I think I'm set. I'll go for the Schmit amendment, but I'll have to go against the amendment by Senator Lewis because we had nothing but a bad experience when we had a weed board. The fact is everybody that had weeds called up the county commissioner anyhow. We got nothing done. I don't know how much we're getting done now, but at least the people have someplace to appeal directly to that are elected and they know what it's all about. When we had this weed board there were a lot of individuals elected just because they have a good sounding name. No one knew what a weed board was. Probably a majority of them don't know now. Therefore, I want to leave this control with the county board. I don't want to set up another weed board. I'll support your amendment Senator Schmit. I think that's what it does. It allows us to retain . . .