

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Chair recognizes...

CLERK: ...the purpose being to reinstate the noxious week monitoring activity.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, just one more example here of how we assign a responsibility and then we casually remove the funding for the very activity which we felt was so necessary. Many years ago prior to the time that I was a member of this body, of course, this body took upon themselves the responsibility for monitoring the noxious weed spreading in growth in the State of Nebraska. It was felt that there needed to be a certain number of personnel to monitor the activities of those individuals such as myself who are involved and who have the responsibility for controlling various noxious weeds. The Appropriations Committee has by their action reduced by \$80,000 the amount of funds necessary to monitor the spreading of noxious weeds in the State of Nebraska. I want to point out that I spent a lot of time traveling across the State of Nebraska. I know that, for example, in the City of Omaha, within the city limits, there are probably more noxious weeds growing than there are in most counties in western Nebraska. I recognize the particular problems that the City of Omaha must have in trying to combat that problem, and I am sympathetic with them. I do believe that they are trying to make an effort to control the spread of those weeds and to make them live up to the letter of the law would almost cause them an astronomical sum of money. I fail, however, to recognize how we can be consistent in this area by placing the responsibility upon someone and then not giving them the funds with which to enforce that responsibility. Therefore, I am pointing out that this \$80,000 should, I believe, be reinstated in the budget, but I want to say and repeat what I said last week several times that the economic conditions facing this state and this nation are serious, and I agree that there must be cuts in certain areas of the budget. As I have pointed out, the receipts for farm products are down drastically. The price for corn this morning is about 35...38 cents below what it was on January 1st, and is going down. Now there may be some people here who smile when I say that because they say, well let the farmers sweat. Well, let me tell you very frankly, ladies and gentlemen, that I have visited with bankers, every banker from the major banks in this state in the last week. Without exception they have assured me that shortly after the individual farm feels the bite, the individual business man, individual laboring man, is going to