

favor vote aye, opposed nay. Voting on ceasing debate. Have you all voted? Please record.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Debate is ceased. Senator Schmit, would you care to close on your amendment to the committee amendments?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members, it is a fitting thing that we would debate a bill like this on April 15th, the tax collection day of the federal government. I didn't want to...I'm sorry, you know, that Senator Dierks brought it up, but I don't get very many opportunities and when I do get an opportunity, if you don't grab it, why, it's kind of like the brass ring. It may not come by again and Senator Dierks mentioned his cat bill and even with the Lamb amendment I have an official estimate of somewhere between 100,000 and a million farm cats that are going to have to be vaccinated by veterinarians across the state. Now that is economic development for veterinarians, of course. Now, there is, I think, still a provision in the law, and I hope you're listening to this because Senator Elmer who brought my good friend, Senator Dick, where is he at, Senator Dick down here today to help lobby for Curtis, there is a provision...if you'll note, I don't think I voted for 573 because it said the veterinary techs couldn't vaccinate cats. That's kind of a bad deal, Senator Lewis, that the veterinary techs are so well trained out there at Curtis, can't be trusted to vaccinate a cat. But anyway, you've got anywhere from a million to \$10 million worth of expense for the farmers to vaccinate our tomcats and if we were to just strike...what was that number of your bill, Senator, if we'd kill that bill, we might have that money to spray our weeds. Now I think it is a matter of give or take, you know. As a father of ten children, there were times we couldn't do everything we wanted to do in our family so we had to do one or the other. We didn't do both. Now maybe we can't afford to vaccinate our cats and spray our weeds. Maybe there has to be some kind of a trade-off. Maybe we can modify that a little bit and allow Senator Elmer's vet tech graduates out there to vaccinate cats for half price, they'll probably do it anyway I have a hunch, for half price, and then we can spray half the weeds and vaccinate half the cats. Maybe we can do what Senator Miller suggested and rewrite the tax bills of the State of Nebraska so that county boards can jack up the levy on the farmland a little bit more out there and get some more money so the counties can take care of it. You don't like to hear me say