

answering his questions, so if he would like it, I would certainly (interruption)

PRESIDENT: Senator Dierks, please.

SENATOR DIERKS: Well, Mr. President and members of the body, just a few comments. I was interested in Senator Morehead's comments too. That musk thistle is a kind of a rascal you know. One of those plants all by itself can produce 40,000 viable seed, 40,000 viable seed, and those seeds can travel as far as 50 miles with the wind or even farther, I guess, but they've been able to prove that. So one farmer, even though he may be an excellent caretaker and take care of his own chores and kill his own musk thistles, can be infected from somebody in Kansas, for instance, or even maybe from Oklahoma eventually and, of course, that doesn't answer the problem I realize and it is frustrating. But for those of us who have dug those thistles and have sprayed them and tried to control them, it is frustrating when you think you have a place cleaned up and come back in a year and find out you have been reinfested. This spurge thing, that's another insidious plant. We know we have that, we know where they are. We can kind hold it one place, if we treat it and take care of it, and it doesn't spread so badly on other people unless you move it with hay. But I guess that I'm going to support the amendment too, but hope that something can be worked out that will allow the state to be involved at least with quarantining and maybe not with funding so much, but at least with some quarantines. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Rod Johnson, did you wish to close on the advancement of the bill?

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Yes, sir. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, this has been a very difficult issue to approach because I think everyone recognizes the importance the program has played in trying to control a rather difficult situation, in fact, almost an impossible situation in certain areas. I know the frustration Senator Morehead has coming from an area of the state which borders another state and the fact that if a county or state is not doing their job in controlling those noxious weeds that you're fighting a losing battle. I recognize what Senator Rogers has indicated, that we have been looking, I know that when Senator Vickers was on the Ag Committee a couple of years ago we looked at a way to provide the Department of Agriculture or some entity a hammer to make sure that these counties are carrying out their responsibilities. But I will