

February 2, 1979

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want to change the word "shall" to "may" because as far as I am concerned, and I have been in Omaha many times and it has been a kind of a ring around rosy thing up there. There are more musk thistle growing inside the city limits of Omaha in the course of a summer than you will find from here to Scottsbluff and they say, well, we can't do anything about it. It is an impossibility. Well I can tell you that in many areas including state owned areas, they have found it possible to clean those areas up. You will recall a few years ago the Games and Parks Commission said they couldn't do anything about it but in recent years the Games and Parks Commission have done an excellent job and I want to commend them. The Department of Roads had difficulty but the Department of Roads cleaned them up. Now the point is this. If a lot owner can not clean up a small lot how do you expect a rancher in Western Nebraska to keep a ranch clean? There are enough musk thistles going to seed in the City of Omaha to seed the entire State of Nebraska and half of Iowa. I think Senator Pirsch has a good bill. I think it ought to be the way it is now and I just want to say this. We get a lot of advice about land use. We get a lot of advice about zoning. We get a lot of advice about how to handle our irrigation water, our underground water. Well I suggest that the people who live in the City of Omaha and I love them, I have some relatives there, but if they can not mow those thistles then I think Senator Pirsch has an excellent idea and they ought to be allowed and required to make those lots clean because it is not that major of a problem if each individual owner accepts his responsibility. I object to the amendment for the bill and I am sorry I do not know whose amendment it is but I think the amendment makes the bill meaningless.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Senator Schmit, this was my amendment as requested by the city who has been discussing this with the county. Evidently the county did appear before the committee that heard this and objected because of various reasons which they both feel they can work out. As you know I fought the amendment "shall" when Senator Carsten first presented it and now the city is willing to go to "may" and work these problems out with the county at a later date. Just a permissive to be able to do it.

PRESIDENT LUEDTKE: The Chair recognizes Senator Goodrich.

SENATOR PIRSCH: It deals with the collection of money. It does not deal with the enforcing of the cutting of weeds.