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LB 150

mealy mouth bill that says they "may" do it. We do not do that with other taxes, taxes that are due. We do collect them. We do not say we "may" collect them. If you are going to have the bill then let's do it as it is written in the first place and not ease up and say, well you "may" do it because how do we know that they will do it. I think the bill ought to stay the way it is and not pass this amendment and make them do it. If they expended the money, done the service for the landowners, then they should have the money and we should not be facing yearly a situation from Omaha where they say, look, we ran out of money. Perhaps the reason they run out of money is they don't collect the revenue that they are entitled to. This would leave an out for them not to collect it. If we need the bill, we need that to say "shall" and not "may".

SENATOR PIRSCH: I think we must not forget that this is...

PRESIDENT LUEDTKE: Senator Pirsch, Senator Schmit wanted... I think he felt he was cut off a while ago and he wanted to continue so I am going to come back to Senator Schmit at this time.

SENATOR SCHMIT: My good friend, Senator Pirsch, has a bill which is trying to do something and I commend her for it but I think as has been explained by Senator Kahle and Senator Nichol, the problems that exist in Omaha today could be partly relieved by the collection of these fees. Not only that but as I have said earlier, other landowners who try to keep their land clean are being burdened by the fact that some of them do not. I want to point out one more thing. I have seen considerable amount of utility right of way, for example, railroads. There were enough thistles growing on the railroad right of way in downtown Omaha to seed the entire city last year. Now I don't know why they can not control those weeds. They control them in my area but most specifically, in Butler County, if I do not control my weeds and I have had some free inspections as Mr. Kreuzscher used to call them, to see whether or not I had them controlled, if I do not control them, the County Weed Director comes out and will spray them and they go on the tax rolls. There is no ifs, ands, buts, maybes, shall, please, what would you do if I ask you or anything else. It is just pay the damn taxes. Now if one law is good for one part of the state it ought to be good for the City of Omaha and I contend again, the problem becomes infinitely greater because they do not address that problem and it does not do any good to run around there when the thistles are six feet high and start chopping them off with a corn knife. They have got to address the problem because