

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Schmit, would you respond?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Yes, I will.

SENATOR DIERKS: As you were discussing the bill, Senator Schmit, I wasn't aware of whether you were approving the amendment or opposing the amendment.

SENATOR SCHMIT: I support the amendment if it does what Senator Owen Elmer says it does and that is it requires the municipalities to control the noxious weeds within their jurisdiction.

SENATOR DIERKS: Okay. Well, I'm sorry I was on the phone when you were asking me the question.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Sure.

SENATOR DIERKS: I'm not taking any opposition to the amendment as it is written. We'll go ahead and accept that. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Rod Johnson. Thank you. Senator Schmit, your light is next. Care to discuss it any further? Senator Schmit, would you care to discuss it any further? Your light is still on.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Only very briefly, Mr. President. Some of you will recall a few years ago when, I believe it was LB 138, we passed the bill into law which took the state out of the business of controlling the weeds. I was opposed to that bill at that time and I said it was a mistake. I said we ought to have been funding it and taking care of the problem. We chose not to do so. Now that we understand that the problem is back with us, and I want to warn you and caution you that this is not...this is not a low cost bill. You are looking at tremendous cost. And, for those of you who don't know, I think I may want to get back into the weed control business again. I was in that for a while and it looks like this might be an opportune time to get back in because there is going to be a substantial amount of income derived particularly, particularly in those urban areas. I might also suggest that we might solve some of the problems of overcrowding at the penitentiaries by taking some of those able-bodied persons out and putting them to work cleaning up the cities and the railroad right-of-ways and