

many other areas because it's going to be a super human task for the cities. But, again, I want to caution you, one single musk thistle can have 30, 40, 50,000 seeds in it. They will fly thousands of feet in the air and they will travel hundreds of miles. And in any given month of the year those weeds can be in bloom. They used to be sort of a perennial. Today they aren't anymore. They seem to bloom all the time and the wind blows from one direction one day and the next direction the next. And those of us who live west of Omaha think that perhaps the fact that Omaha has a high concentration of musk thistle it isn't going to threaten us, but I can guarantee you that it will and it only takes one or two small plants and I have fought them for 20 some years, 25, 30 years, and most of us in agriculture have, we know it is a tough, tough problem. We know also that it's not the only problem. The leafy spurge problem which has been pointed out by Senator Lamb and others, and Senator Owen Elmer, is also a serious problem and it's also a problem up in Senator Cap Dierks' district. So we have the cost and we have not paid much attention to this over the years and we're going to have to do it now. I'm going to suggest that it's easy to overlook these things. There's no glamour in fighting weeds. You know you're not going to make any headlines and anyone who supports this bill is not going to go back home and be able to tell his constituents in any kind of a manner that they will believe him that he performed a great public service by passing this bill into law. But it is a very important bill. It is a bill which I think needs a lot of attention but, more than that, it's going to need funding and it's one more instance where we're going to put some really serious funding responsibilities on some local jurisdictions unless we, of course, see fit to apply General Fund money there. At this time, I don't see that's forthcoming. But we're going to make it really tough on the individual landowner, on the individual jurisdictions and on the individual counties and cities and, hopefully, we will be able to conquer the problem. Thank you very much. I support the amendment and I support the bill.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Elmer, would you care to close on your amendment?

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you very much. I just want to make it very clear that all we're doing is basically changing a "may" to a "shall". And in context it says, "all cities and villages in this state shall provide for the control of noxious weeds within their jurisdiction." And that's the sum and substance of the