

many of these points and that it would be appropriate that we take time off the floor to address those problems rather than consume a lot of time here on the floor with various policy choices on the noxious weed program. Senator Schmit did comment that we're talking about an expensive program that is expensive both to the state and to the local governments but is a program, I think, that if you ask people in your counties, they do support it, they want to continue to have it and what we need is both funding and statewide enforcement and that is exactly what Senator Dierks and Elmer are attempting to address in their two bills. This one, LB 49, is by Senator Dierks. I think we'll see further amendments to clarify certain aspects of the bill. But, at this time, I think I would just ask the body to approve the committee amendments and advance the bill to Select File.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Discussion on the committee amendments.  
Senator Nelson.

SENATOR NELSON: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I refrained from commenting on working out the details and so on of this particular bill. But I did want to bring out another point and I believe that this is maybe the best place and the best time to do this. In regards to the noxious weeds, I certainly understand the importance. I know what leafy spurge is and I sure know a lot about musk thistle and so on and so forth. And when the program was cut, it's not the fact that I don't appreciate the need for the bill, appreciate the need to address the noxious weeds, but I also have a concern and that is of the amount, the fee for charged, and so on, and I'm not saying that maybe six agencies may not be needed or six new directors, and so on. But, again, I want to call attention to the body, we have herbicides and pesticides, we have water quality, we have underground storage funds, we have LB 121, a super fund. In other words, the noxious weeds is not the only problem or the only concern that we do have facing us. Each and everyone of us knows how important each one of these areas are, the herbicides, the pesticides. Iowa passed a very comprehensive bill last year addressing some of these very same concerns. Illinois has one. Theirs is \$50.00 per product, where I think we're talking 30 in here. Kansas a fund and, as I mentioned, Iowa. Colorado has a fund. And I also have great concern of the people that have purchased land very reasonable, put it all in CRP and then forget the noxious weeds and let the rest of us worry about it. And I know and we all know that that is...but I'm not against the bill, I'm not in support, but I