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LB 49A

there are problems in many, many areas in the state and so I'm caught between the fact of not supporting Senator Dierks in a very, very good cause and yet once we start down that door and we open the gate we have so many problems. And to tax one particular...or all chemicals for one particular area, I'm not quite sure that's the prudent thing to do Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Further discussion on the advancement of the bill. Senator Schmit. (Gavel.)

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members, three years ago most of the same individuals who are supporting this bill were adamantly in support of taking the state out of the business. Over my objections, they did so. Of course, Senator Warner had taken the money out of the program several years before that so there really wasn't...they really weren't all wrong. Now, we have been talking a lot about taxes and property taxes and the impact upon local government by what we do here and if you will note very carefully, we're not going to put that much money into this program in this respect but there may be some fiscal impact upon the counties, particularly those counties where the leafy spurge is beginning to become prevalent and many other noxious weeds are beginning to overrun the pasturelands. It's kind of, I guess, a matter of your priorities, we just advanced a bill that will cost the State of Nebraska about \$5,700 for each additional individual we convict, so if under that bill you convict 200 people, you are going to increase your cost to the penal system by about a million bucks a year. We can't put a million bucks here into the deterrent program but we can put a million bucks a year or two million bucks per year into the program which will lock them up. Therefore, I would hope that if this bill becomes law that it will be an effective bill and that we will spend some money to curb the spread of these noxious weeds and do so in a manner which is efficient and, hopefully, cost effective. It's kind of ironic though when you look at it that we're willing to spend money to stamp out weeds and we are not willing to spend money to stamp out the drug pushers. I guess it's a matter of priorities. I support the A bill.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Elmer, followed by Senator Dierks.

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you, Mr. President. I apologize for being down front. I just want to rise in support of this particular