

animals are causing \$37 million worth of damage. Well, that sounds like a lot of money. It is a lot of money, but when you consider how massive agriculture is, that probably has been occurring year after year for as long as you and I can remember, and if you put figures on here as to how much is destroyed by insects and how much is destroyed by the unhappy appearance of weeds in your fields, this 37 million dollar figure would be tremendously higher. Now if somebody gave you a sheet of paper that said we ought to get the state into the business of destroying insects and weeds because it's a \$100 million and \$130 million for insects, would you jump right into that? No, you would say, well, we've never done that. We do the weeds, the individual businessman has to take care of his weeds just like any other businessman who has something that is a problem to his production has to take care of that production problem. But all of a sudden, just because it's in one particular area we seem to feel some compulsion that it needs to be done at the state level. For ten years it has not been done at the state level. Have you heard any horror stories about predators or these kinds of animals being out of control? I think not. Sure, there are always examples. There have been since the beginning of agriculture in the state and there always will be. But I don't know of any time in our history when predators or animals generally have been such a nonproblem. My God, the whole state is down to remnants now in terms of any natural...natural areas of biota or any significant habitats in this state. Animals are never again going to be a massive problem in this state. If there is ever a massive problem, it will be at the insect level or it will be at the weed level and we've already decided, long ago, and there's never been a question about the fact that this problem, these problems are the problems of the business person. Extension service, private services, Game and Parks, all provide services telling you how and where to go to help with controlling these kinds of problems. I don't think, again, that there is any need for the state to provide additional experts. I think there should be ..

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...there should be professionals and private enterprise has every reason to supply them if people are willing to pay a reasonable fee to get their services. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Vrtiska.