

they did so again in London in 1984. They have constantly to recommit themselves to virtue, so great is our propensity to sin where trade is concerned. Sin, of course, is protectionism. One of the problems of trans-Atlantic trade is agriculture, a problem of deep concern to Nebraska. And let me say at the outset, that the problems of United States farmers are well understood in Europe. Indeed, food is so basic that no government can let agricultural policy go by default. Two thousand years ago Socrates said, "A statesman must understand wheat above all else." Governments in both Europe and the United States confront roughly similar problems in farming. In a sense, they are the problems of success since we all produce more food than we can eat and so have difficulty in selling all that we grow. Europe and America both subsidize their farmers. We do so roughly to the same extent although we do it differently. We, in Europe, subsidized our farmers in 1984 to the tune of about \$14 billion dollars. President Reagan said the other day that during the past four years the American farmer received \$63 billion in subsidies or about \$16 billion per annum. So I hope you will agree that there is not much scope for the pot calling the kettle black. There is not much scope for Europeans thinking that their agricultural problems will go away if only Uncle Sam stops subsidizing the American farmer. Nor is there much scope for Americans thinking that the problems of American farmers would go away if those wicked Europeans stopped subsidizing European farmers, for American farmers have also other problems, the problem of the strength of the dollar. Some have the problem of having bought land on the assumption of continuing inflation and in the past you have had the problem of public policy on grain sales to Russia. And speaking personally, I am delighted to learn that the grain sales are going well again. So protectionist measures or aggressive sales policies may seem very attractive in the first flush of enthusiasm as a way of tackling these problems, but like most quick fixes they are unlikely to succeed in the long run. They flatter only to deceive for not least because other countries will surely retaliate and then the vicious spiral we saw in the 1930s could conceivably be set up again. The consequences of the Smoot-Hawley Act of the 1930s should never be forgotten. Of course, American farmers need to export. European farmers need to export also. So the challenge facing our nations is to find ways of working together to solve the problems that confront us in an interdependent world, for what each of us does affects others directly and immediately. We all have