

March 15, 1979

LB 190

sufficient money to pay the interest, the taxes and the cost of operation. The question that comes before us time after time is, what has caused this situation and what is the remedy? Part of the cause, of course, is the extremely high cost of petroleum, which has increased the operating cost of all American farms. It has increased the cost of all of our inputs, our chemicals, our fertilizers. It has increased the cost of operating each individual unit to the point that our return is very minimal. We find everyday inflationary tactics by the federal government, which further compound the problems of the family farm.

PRESIDENT: One minute, Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: We also find a federal estate problem, which will probably do more to wipe out the family farm than any threat of alien ownership. The federal government, has, over the years, through inflation, increased it's take of the family farm to the point that today if my estate were to be divided, it would probably not leave enough for the family to live on, and the federal government, because of those exorbitant estate taxes, will take away from me what no one else could do. The one thing we are doing if we pass this legislation, that may be to the detriment of the individual family farm is this, it will limit me as to whom I may sell my farm, if and when the time comes that I am forced to sell. The only way I'm going to sell my farm is if I am forced to sell it, and frankly, if I am forced to sell it, I really don't care who I sell it to, banker, lawyer, doctor, or foreigner. I want to sell to the highest bidder. Now that may sound un-American, but I'll tell you what it is, it's the free enterprise system at its most ruthless best. I know that there are people who will say, Schmit would sell to aliens. I want to say this, those of us in agriculture will not sell unless we're forced to sell, and the only way we're being forced to sell at the present time are through pricing policies, many of them instigated by the federal government, and tax policies instigated by the federal government, which have forced us in a position of economic disparity...

PRESIDENT: Time is up, Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: I would have to regretfully oppose the motion to raise LB 190 from....

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Maresh.

SENATOR MARESH: Mr. President, a question of Senator Burrows.

PRESIDENT: Senator Burrows, will you respond?