

mechanism to try to draw attention to the fact that we do have a serious problem. At the outset I want you to understand, because I had an opportunity this summer to talk about some federal issues and to be involved in a partisan race, that this is not an attempt on my part to embarrass any political party. It is not an attempt on my part to raise the partisanship issue since I happen to think it doesn't make any difference as far as this problem that we are suffering is concerned who might be in power in the federal government as far as parties are concerned. The fact of the matter is those of us in rural America are in the minority. Those of us who are suffering this economic crisis are in the minority. It occurs to me that we cannot expect any solutions to be found to our problem until there at least is a recognition by the federal government that we do have a problem, until there at least is a recognition that not all of America is enjoying the great recovery that admittedly is taking place on both coasts. It also occurs to me that I could put on my cowboy hat, or I could put on a cap for the American Agriculture Movement, or the Farm Bureau, or the Grange, or whatever and we could go to Washington in that fashion and Washington would say we feel sorry for farmers, we understand that you've got a problem but that is tough. I think it is about as remote to them as it is a lot of us when we watch the terrible things that are happening in Ethiopia. We think it doesn't affect us. We think, therefore, we can ignore it. But it occurs to me that if a number of state legislators, who also were elected officials, representing the farm states, would ban together and go to Washington that we might, in unison, have our voices be heard so that there would at least be a recognition that we should collectively work toward some solutions because the problem would at least be recognized. That is the intent of this resolution. I don't believe Nebraska, the 20 members that I am asking for in this resolution alone, could effectuate that. It depends on getting support from and delegations from the other farm belt states. In case anybody wants to ask the question, no, I haven't been in contact with anybody in those farm belt states. We have to start here and start asking other states to assist us and to join with us. But I would like to see a group of state legislators converge on Washington to at least let the policy makers in that city know that we in rural America, we who are providing the food and fiber for this nation, are suffering economically and are going to suffer even worse, I am convinced, if there aren't some