

good quality, and also that it doesn't have so much foreign substance in it. We've received a lot of complaints here lately, so I think we may want to see that changed. I was impressed by the study that the Omaha Chamber of Commerce did a year or two ago. In this study it showed that agriculture, or ag related industries, added approximately \$4 billion a year to the Omaha economy. Of course, with the economy of agriculture dropping certainly this means that the economy is going to drop in our largest city, Omaha. In analyzing the sales tax receipts for the first eight or nine months of 1984, I noticed that most of the rural...the sales tax receipts from most of the rural counties were down from 15 to 20 percent, whereas Douglas County was up some. I think this is certainly telling us a story that the ag economy is in a difficult situation. We should try to do something to prop this up. Agriculture is Nebraska's number one industry. So I think all of us, all 49 of us senators, should be very concerned about it. Again, I want to thank Senator Vickers for introducing this resolution. I think we ought to take some affirmative action on it.

PRESIDENT: Chair recognizes Senator Harris.

SENATOR HARRIS: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I have handed out some copies of a speech summary that is entitled, "The High Interest Rates and the Prices in Agriculture, Ag Credit Crisis in General." This is done to accentuate the problem that we are facing in agricultural areas today, including the State of Nebraska. What I want to speak to momentarily is that we have to understand that the rest of the country is not necessarily being affected the way we are. We have 800 troubled institutions, according to government agencies, in the United States. The vast majority of those institutions, meaning banking institutions, are associated with agriculture. They represent only less than one percent of all the deposits in the United States. So we don't have the recognition of our problem out in Nebraska, in the midwest, unless we go and make ourselves known through such a delegation. I fully support this resolution. I think it is imperative that we move as quickly as possible because the situation is growing in seriousness every day. I think that the correlation between Viet Nam and the ag credit crisis that we are seeing right now is appropriate. We have the wrong decisions being made because of improper assumptions. In the Wall Street Journal, today, there is a recognition of what I have been