

of farmers have indicated to me and a few businessmen that they would be willing to accompany the legislators at their own expense. I doubt that very many of them could do that and, unfortunately, some of those who perhaps might be the most articulate and the best spokesmen would perhaps be the least likely to be able to afford the expense. I think that we are not going to have many times at bat in this ball game. We heard President Reagan's inaugural address. We have read the prognostication of the Office of Management and Budget for some time and we know that the federal government has serious financial problems and we can expect those to continue. We do not want to aggravate those problems but I do believe that unless the crisis in the Middle West is resolved that will be transferred to the eastern part of the country as well as the west and the south which now apparently are immune. I have been told, and I have every reason to believe it is true, that the farm credit system which finances much of agriculture is undergoing some really serious problems. I understand that the Farm Credit Bank of Spokane is in difficulty and that our own Farm Credit Bank here in Omaha may have to reorganize. If and when that should occur, many additional thousands of farmers and ranchers are going to be out of business and, of course, that will mean also the people with whom they do business will be adversely impacted. I have said on this floor many times and I am willing to say it again this morning that I think we have to go back there with a plan and we must go back there also with our minds open to any suggestions which might come from our Washington delegation or from the administration. I can say honestly that I have visited with every member of our delegation. They are aware of the problem. They are as deeply concerned as we are. They want to be helpful and I think they will be helpful. But we need to go back there with a plan, we need to take the best possible delegation with us, and there may be some alternative methods of funding these individuals who would be added to the program, and if so, I might be willing to listen to those plans. I would hope that whatever we do we proceed with this plan. I appreciate Senator Vickers' leadership and the other legislators who have taken the leading role in this area. I know how much it means to them. It is not my intention to dilute that effort but only to add to it. I have heard with interest that the State of Iowa does plan to send a delegation to Washington. I would hope that the State of Kansas would do the same. I believe we recognize the leadership role that Senator Dole plays in