

not sure I got yours, Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: But I am sure you did not vote for the constitutional amendment on ag land valuations. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, as I have said many times on this floor, each of us must depend upon the integrity of the other. From time to time that brings out the best in us and it certainly proves that we believe in God and even Senator Chambers must smile a bit at that because he has voted here many times for issues which are of no substantive importance to him based upon the correctness of that position as it impacts upon others in the state. I can tell you very honestly that I have never been convinced of a legal responsibility of the State of Nebraska toward the Commonwealth depositories. But I can tell you also very honestly that as a legislator and as an elected person, as one who voted for the creation of the NDIGC, I recognize that we have a limited ability to investigate the operation of the executive branch of government. Each of us in here already if not in the past will some time in the future create some kind of a state agency or contribute to some agency and then wonder how it is operating. Senator Vickers has a bill this year to bring to an end the various commodity checkoff boards. One of the reasons, as I understand it, for the introduction of the bill is to find out what they are doing. I have asked him many times and I have said, you know, God bless you, Schmit, go away, you can't tell us what to do. We do not have that authority as a Legislature to check up on the Department of Banking to see if their investigators are doing a good job of an investigation. But somewhere along the line there is that responsibility as elected people to see to it that government does not break down. To that extent, we have, in my opinion, a responsibility. That is why I believe also we have a responsibility to address the institutions in Nebraska that have not failed and are struggling to make the system work. We have a greater responsibility than just to sit here and wait for the other shoe to drop and then say, well I guess we couldn't help it. There are things we can do as legislators that may not always be popular, but we have to do it. I would like to have a specific amount of money in this resolution for agriculture, as I...or for the other banks, as I told Senator Haberman. But I am not