

land that had traditionally been used by the populace to graze livestock was no longer available and that populace was broke and had gone to the cities for some kind of occupation and was starving. And what we have happening in American agriculture today is no different because political decisions have been made in Washington, D.C. to take Nebraska farmers and Iowa farmers and Kansas farmers and South Dakota farmers, pauperize them, move them to the cities. It is as brutal, as cruel, as mindless as it was 400 years ago in England. It is done today in the name of economy, efficiency, competition, let market forces control, etcetera. And what you and I are observing occur is the true destruction of a way of life that has meant so much, not just to our parents and our grandparents but to us, to us, because we are the inheritors of those solid rural values of an independent people. Now I'll tell you, when you watch it happen, you can't, like Sam Voss, be the house by the side of the road and watch the world go by. You have got to be in the middle of the road. You have got to say, stop. You have got to redirect the traffic. You have got to make certain that this process be dealt with again and again and again. And I am glad we are sending folk back to Washington, D.C. And not just that, I think that we as a Legislature must at every opportunity make it quite clear to the people of our state that politics, not local politics but national politics...

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: ...are causing our difficulties. And, in fact, we must roar back. We must work hard to do right by Nebraska agriculture, to do right by Nebraska families. If we have to commit money, if we have to commit public dollars to provide credit to rural Nebraska, sobeit. If we have to amend the Nebraska Constitution to allow the direct provision of credit as happened in the nonpartisan league in North Dakota in 1919, sobeit. Senator Schmit, Senator Johnson and others have bills before the Constitutional Revision and Recreation Committee to say, let's, the public in this state, start controlling the credit so we can take care of our folk. It should be done. If we need to make certain that we have an adequate relief program...

SPEAKER NICHOL: Fifteen seconds.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: ...poor relief program available to our