

is this, it seems to be very popular, periodically, for newsmen to say, no man's life or property is safe while the Legislature is in session. There are some of us who have felt that to be more truth than poetry from time to time. I have said many times that what a man can take 40 years putting together, this Legislature can wipe out in 40 minutes. We can all cite specific instances. But there comes a times when responsibility is unavoidable. That responsibility is here today. Senator Chambers has pointed out again the area of the agricultural situation is a most difficult one. I would concur that on many occasions when I stood on this floor and supported those issues, which were of importance to people represented by Senator Chambers, that from the standpoint of the rural community I stood alone. I would have to say that there were a few times when I went back to my district and suffered some chastisement because I did so. But I am back here, after five terms, notwithstanding those efforts. I have no doubt that if I choose to come back again that my support of the Commonwealth issue will not be a factor in whether I return or not. But I believe that we must recognize that there is a combination of factors coming together today and perhaps an awakening of the realization of the responsibility of elected people to do that which is right. We cannot always do everything we want to do, but we must do those things we are capable of doing and sometimes suffer embarrassment in this body because the unrepresented people are not heard from. The agricultural situation that exists today is in existence today because of man-made disasters at the federal level and a contempt for rural people that is unmatched in many, many years. I'm going to say something on the floor of this Legislature which I have said in many speeches but which has never appeared in print. I want to say it because I think it needs to appear on the record somewhere. Two years ago, when the infamous PIK program was being discussed, I said the money should be spent to purchase food to ship to those nations like Africa,...

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...and Asia, and South America, that were starving. Nothing was done. A year and a half later the press suddenly discovers starvation in Africa. I believe that if those people were not...if they were white people who were starving to death, something would have been done a long time ago, but because they are black and because there