

are going to find we are right there number one, or two, or three. So I would ask you not to kill the bill. I'd ask you not to kill it for a second reason, completely separate. Senator Remmers, fellow farm senators, if we've got \$5 or \$6 million maybe we can do something better with this money. Maybe we can really make this program pay off. Maybe we can go out and buy farmland, at some pretty depressed prices right now, put it into the school board of lands and funds, turn around and get a few more young farmers on it that wouldn't be there otherwise. So I'd ask you not to kill the bill. I'll tell you I'm seriously considering how to put that together. You don't like weatherization, hell, we'll buy farmland. At least don't kill the bill right now.

PRESIDENT: Senator Vard Johnson.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, you know Senator DeCamp has a way of stealing other people's thunder. That's right, that's right. Senator DeCamp is willing to trade on ideas. But I think LB 126 should be kept alive so that we can discuss a totally different concept which is to take the \$5 million in the severance tax money that comes from the school land oil and gas leases, and to use that \$5 million to direct the school land people to go back into the agricultural market and buy farm and ranch land to hold permanently in the school land fund. In the 1890s we sold off half of our school land, and in the 1960s we sold off another big batch of our school land. We now have a declining market, a declining price on school...on farmland and ranchland. The best way to maintain the prices in the market is for an active buyer to go out and buy. This is as good a time as any to begin to restore that inventory of school land in the school land fund. So what you do is say, all right, you get \$5 million a year on the severance tax that comes right out of school land, you take that money and you go back into the market right away and you begin to buy one section per township, as in the old days, to put back in that inventory of school land. We'll have that land permanently, at least until some other legislature decides to sell it off, but we will have it permanently to use for new farmers, to use for older farmers, but more importantly we will continue to make a market at a time when there is no market price because all sales are distressed sales. So at this time I would vote not to kill LB 126.