

pants in the morning, or he or she, and goes to work and does not know the method whereby they can circumvent the system and obtain low cost financing. We have in this city today numerous examples of low cost financing that have been made available to business and industry that are not available to the average homeowner. Expansion of credit in the Farmers Home Administration has also provided some low cost financing, but for the most part the cost of that money has been reflected in the loans for the individual and many of the FHA borrowers who are used to being given the favored rate, no longer have one. I would like to point out that day after day for the last number of years we have heard people deplore the high interest rates. I have stood on this floor and I have said, let the market system set the interest rates, let it follow inflation on up. And I assisted in taking off those usury limits. I also said, very naively, perhaps, that when the interest rates...that interest rates will decline when inflation declines and interest rates will again follow the inflation rate on down. We all know what has happened. Sixteen, seventeen percent interest rates dictated twenty-one and a half percent prime rate. Now we have an inflation rate probably proclaims to be somewhere in the three to four percent range, but what has happened to the usual and customary interest rate at Nebraska banks today? Fourteen to fifteen percent. Production credit associations, 15.75; Federal Land Bank, 12.75 to 13, interest rates which are confiscatory, interest rates which prohibit agriculture, business or the building industry to thrive and survive, interest rates which make the ownership of a new automobile virtually prohibitive. Why have not interest rates followed inflation down? We are told because of the national debt. A friend of mine, a banker, farmer, who had much experience in this area, used to tell me it was just as easy for Mr. Volcker to control the cost of money at 9 percent as it is at 16. I don't know about that. What I do know is this, that we can stand on this floor, we can stand here in Nebraska and we can beg for help from the federal government. We can ask for a federal subsidy for interest rates. We can ask for Mr. Volcker to wave the magic wand and bring down interest rates. We can ask the Congress to do something to subsidize interest rates here in the State of Nebraska. But we are not members of the Congress. We are not Mr. Volcker. We are not President Reagan. We have a responsibility to the people who elected us from the State of Nebraska. We have state legislators in Nebraska. We have only one avenue open to us and that is to