

line we've got to be realistic. We've got to find other ways to address the problems that we have. We also have financial institutions going broke and so we've got to be careful in that area because we need these financial institutions to provide the credit that we need this spring, this summer and next year and the years following that. I would urge you to not vote to advance this bill.

PRESIDENT: Senator Vickers. The Chair recognizes Senator Vickers. Take your time, no heart attack.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President and members, if you remember correctly about the second day of the session I stood up and introduced a resolution that to a lot of people seemed rather far out, seemed like it probably didn't stand much of a chance for success and I said at the time that difficult times, desperate times sometimes required desperate measures and that was a resolution that asked us to invite other states to join us in an effort to relate to the federal government the severity of the problems in rural America. I can tell you that that little idea that seemed rather insignificant at the time has blossomed into something that I think will be significant. There is a number of other states that have said they are going to join us and as many of you know who are a part of that group that are going, we've got a real active agenda. It seems to me that this issue that Senator Schmit brings before us is almost the same sort of a thing. Certainly there are a lot of good arguments why it can't work. There are a lot of good arguments why we shouldn't do it, but I would simply relate to you that once again I think this is one of those issues that desperate times require desperate measures and sometimes you have to do some things that you may not think would work or that you may not do in normal times. I hear a lot of people tell me that we need to go back and ask the federal government to raise the price supports so we can get more dollars for our products and I don't totally disagree with that. But I can tell you right now I wouldn't have to have near as many dollars for my products if I didn't have to pay so much for interest. Interest is completely out of line with the rate of inflation and we all know it. This country is the only country in the nation or in the world that's just simply saying that our currency is going to be available to anybody and everybody that wants to buy it and we're just simply being bought out by foreign nations. Those of us in agriculture, those of us in small businesses