

of our questions.

PRESIDENT: Senator Vickers.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President, members, I'm a little amazed at the discussion here this morning. First of all, let me tell you that I don't consider this to be anything partisan at all. It wouldn't make any difference to me if it was a Democrat President or a Republican President or a green President or a purple President. Agriculture is getting beat up today. Agriculture is getting beat up by actions of the federal government. As Senator Schmit mentioned that a little bit earlier, it is not new, it is not different, it has been happening for a long period of time by a bipartisan group of folks and I guess what I am hearing here today is, as I think, a complete, almost a complete reversal of what I heard when this session first started and I introduced LR 2. When I introduced LR 2 I told you then that that was going to be...the agricultural issue, the economic crisis we had going on in Nebraska was going to be the single most important issue that this body could deal with this year. And I thought I heard almost everybody on this floor stand up and say, yeah, we agree with you, yeah, that's what we need to do. Now I'm hearing people say, well, yeah, but everything back there that's happening is just great the way things are going, we don't want to start down the road with a measly hundred million dollar program for interest buy down, never mind the fact that we don't have anything at all right now. Never mind the fact that we don't have one thin dime out there right now. A hundred million isn't enough. A hundred million isn't enough. I admit a hundred million isn't enough. A hundred million is a hell of a lot more than nothing. That's what we've got now. So I guess what I'm hearing on this floor is, agriculture should just forget it. Those of us who come from a state that reelected our President with the largest majority that ever happened had ought to just say we don't care, just forget it, folks, set down and go home, and if we have a depression a couple of years from now, then we can just suffer the consequences. Well, I can't do that. I can't do that. I've got to do what I think we can do. I've got to speak out when I think we need to speak out because the consequences are too great and I disagree totally with Senator Chambers that it is going to be only the large farmers or the large corporations that benefit from this. If we do nothing, if we do nothing that