

have all of the information available to us that should be available. I recognize that there are differing points of view on every issue that comes before this body, that people with sincere minds and sound judgments can take the same set of conclusions, facts, and arrive at a different conclusion. Nonetheless, I believe that it is very important that we recognize that at this time we face a very critical portion of our future and unless we are prepared to use all available resources, not only Nebraska agriculture is going to suffer irreparably, but all of Nebraska, all of the Midwest and eventually the entire United States. It is easy for those of us who feel that we may be somewhat isolated from agriculture to say that this is a farmer's fight, it is a farmer's disagreement. And there are many people on both sides of the issue who can present good arguments for their position. But I think that it is time that at this time rather than...more so than any other time since I have been here that we all work together. The headlines this morning pointed out that another small bank in Nebraska has failed. Yesterday Senator Rod Johnson and I attended a hearing chaired by Senator Zorinsky and attended by Senator Exon on agricultural problems and the Zorinsky farm bill. One witness after another testified to the vulnerability of agriculture and the interrelationship of agriculture with business and industry. It makes it very, very difficult for those of us who are farmers to look forward to anything very bright. I couldn't help but thinking yesterday while I was listening to the testimony of the conversation and comments by an FDIC official who said that if some farmers had sold their land back in 1980, they wouldn't be broke now. I don't know what would have happened to the individuals who bought it. Had it been another farmer, he would have been the man who would have been suffering. Had it been a business person, they would have suffered. You know, it is kind of interesting that five years ago as we projected forward, we had reason to be optimistic. At this time, as we look forward, we have no reason for optimism because we have been told by President Reagan's Administration that we must expect lower prices in agriculture. Now we have been in session here for almost sixty days and I have not heard any projections from any agency, any group, any individual, that has looked toward lower income. Almost everyone looks toward an increased income with the exception of agriculture. So I guess what we should be thinking about now is if five years ago when we had reason to be optimistic we are now being chastised because we didn't all sell out,