

but the reality of the facts are that when we talk about a free market system, Nebraska revolves around its agricultural base. We're stuck with that whether we like it or not and anything we can do to increase the value of those commodities that we produce will have a direct economic benefit to every single Nebraskan. It's sort of ironic that we have discussed many, many times the necessity of improved commodity prices to Nebraska agriculture and yet until recently the Cargo Preference Act was totally unnoticed. If you read the headline in the Omaha World Herald this morning relative to the Farm Credit Banks of Omaha, you recognize the serious financial condition of that major credit institution and I think that you see they have somewhere of several hundred million dollars of uncollected loans or delinquent loans. Twenty-five cents a bushel improvement on the price could wipe out that kind of a deficit. It would be a tragedy if that excellent institution were allowed to continue its decline because of the kind of federal restrictions on shipping that we have had for many, many years that's cost every single Nebraskan billions of dollars. I commend Senator Rod Johnson and the other senators who introduced this resolution. I'm sure that it will be treated with some respect where we need to send it, but more than that, I would encourage every single member of this body to continue to communicate with our delegation in Washington...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...to let them know how we feel and to give them encouragement which they need because when it comes right down to the wire they are going to need all the assistance we can give them. It's extremely important to Nebraska that we strike the cargo preference privilege. It's just the first step, but it's an important step. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT: Thirteen minutes left for debate. Senator Nichol.

SPEAKER NICHOL: I'd like to call the question.

PRESIDENT: Okay. Senator Vickers, we've had the question called. Did you want to speak? I have to put the question to you. Do I see five hands for closing debate? I don't see five hands. Okay, I do. The question is, shall the