

are now, who heard this same argument. I'm going to give it to you in a couple of areas where we heard it. Do you remember, do you remember, and you should remember clearly, when we discussed banking legislation, multibank? The key argument given was that if you lift, if you lift now the ban on one bank owning or buying another bank then all the little country banks will be "snarfed" up overnight and there will be no little country banks. We did lift the ban. Do you know what happened? Do you know how many little country banks were bought up? Not one in the State of Nebraska, not one. What did occur was some mergers of banks that went into trouble, and some were allowed, in failed banks, to take over. But the actual fear that was given, that they would all be taken over, not only didn't happen but there are people out there begging to have somebody as a buyer for their bank today. Another area where you may remember it, oil deregulation. If you lift, if you lift the ban on regulation, the price of oil will go to \$50 a barrel. If you lift the ban, only a few big companies will be left. The ban was lifted. Deregulation occurred. All kinds of new people got into the business. Production increased. The price of oil, today, is around \$17 a barrel and apparently headed even lower. Sometimes, sometimes we are so convinced of something, we have a mind set, that we fail to look at the facts. I'm going to give you a really classic example you would all be familiar with. Go back about 100 years, just before the Civil War, during the Civil War even. Do you remember when anybody got sick, the sicker and more ill they got, the standard remedy, the absolute standard remedy for solving almost any ailment, the standard remedy was bleeding. In other words, you took blood out of that human body because it was viewed as bad blood, somehow. The very act of saving, the very act of saving became an act of killing. More people died because of what they had done to cure the disease, in other words, died from the bleeding process than from whatever the perceived disease was in the first place. I'm not so sure but what you don't have a lot of that going on today. The very act of saving has become an act of killing. The very act of saving Nebraska's agricultural economy may, indeed, in fact, will, indeed, if something isn't done, be an act of killing this economy, and why? I'm going to tell you why. These are hard facts, but they are true facts, and neither Johnny DeCamp nor the strongest advocate of Initiative 300 is going to change them. The facts are these, we, as Nebraskans, live in a global economy. Maybe as Nebraskans we live more in a