

competition. Now ask yourself this. Can the family farm survive in the world of isolation? And I don't think so. Why? Because the entire picture of agriculture has a variety of different forces, from the packing houses to all the auxiliary things that make up the food chain.

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR DECAMP: And to the degree, to the degree that you outlaw or make unavailable the latest technology, the latest developments, the latest forms of putting things together, to that degree you outlaw the right of the individual family farmer to continue to succeed and to continue to compete. You cannot shelter the family farm through artificial devices like Initiative 300. You can allow that family farmer, through your tax laws and other things, to survive if you will allow the entire picture to develop. That's the global picture you're into and you'd better face up to it. The statement has been repeatedly made that the Legislature for 14 or 16 years failed to act. On the contrary, the Legislature acted each time with more debate than most other issues of the year each time. With more controversy, the Legislature repeatedly decided to go the competitive route rather than the isolationist route. For somebody to say because we chose to go that direction, we failed to act and, therefore, we're at fault is simply not stating the truth. The truth is we made a choice and that choice was not the isolationism route.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Time.

SENATOR DECAMP: And so I think the Legislature should not, at this point in time, vote to kill this proposal.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Abboud, then Senator Wesely.

SENATOR ABOUDD: Mr. President, colleagues, there has been a lot of discussion here about the Initiative 300 debate and it all has to be focusing in on, on one issue, and that is did the people make the right decision when they enacted Initiative 300. Well, it's always been my belief that we're not really the government here. The 49 senators that sit here on the floor are merely representatives of the people and the people of this state are the government. And so it is important to remember when we're discussing this issue that whether the people in this state made a mistake in