

Legislature, and work their will, they hope. There were a lot of farmers here the first time but it is known by those who have a lot of power that ordinary people and working people cannot leave their jobs, cannot leave their homes, but the industries, the corporations are always able to hire hired guns and send them to do their work, and deal with issues other than those before us. But I am going to talk about this issue at a different level than most of you have. There are forces contending for the soul of agriculture in this county and in this state. There are problems that people on the farms have and they wonder where help will come from. They see the doors of the courts as being closed to them. Lawyers will not take their cases. They come to the Legislature and they tell me there are senators who will either not let them in their offices or will hide from them or make them talk to an aide and not give them any time. So government as an entity in abstraction is viewed to a great extent as the enemy of the people. So that you can see what is going on out there, I will go out in the farm areas. There are others who will, too. There are some who won't. Here are a few random headlines: "Ag Stress Seen In Census Data"; "Depression Comes To Small Farm Towns"; "Countryside Ferment Could Grow Into Potent Weapon For '86 Races"; "Death For Farm Economy Mourned"; "Protesting Wisconsin Farmers Are In State Capitol For Christmas"; "Farmer Drives Tractor Into Bank Front Doors"; "Activists Urge Militancy To Stop Bankster Gangsters". When people, and I have said this a lot of times, perceive a situation as real, it is real to them in its consequences. This, I think, is a wrongful act for the Legislature to take if a vote were made to reconsider. You have to consider how people will perceive what their government is doing to them. I heard Senator Remmers make some good comments and one of them was that no selling job has been done on this proposition. Whatever reason he has for voting against the reconsideration motion, I welcome him, but what we are watching is the devastation of a way of life, whether it is the corporations, whether it is the fact that land values were artificially inflated and people bought and borrowed more than they could afford, all those factors are beside the point this morning. We are dealing with how the Legislature is going to be perceived. If you would place this measure on the ballot, it is not going to rescue the farm economy. It is not going to save a single rural community. Corporations that seem to be talking so much about purchasing farmland now were not purchasing it before this proposition was put in place...