

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Senator, yes, that is a good point and that has been discussed beforehand. There is no question this is not a riskless transaction, or attempt. There is some risk involved. But the fact of the matter is that I have an amendment pending that I'd like to offer on Select File that would narrow the scope of this ability to only Class A loans, to the best loans possible. It is not a dumping ground for bad loans, Senator Hartnett. That is my understanding. The purpose is not to serve as a mini FMHA where you are going to pick up a bunch of questionable or lower class loans.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Okay, thanks a lot. Thank you.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Senator Vickers, please.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President, members, I rise to support the bill as well. But I would like to make a few comments. I think Senator Harris said a lot of things that I would have liked to have said. We are trying to solve and deal with a problem that obviously is a lot larger than the State of Nebraska. But because of the comments in response to questions from Senator Hartnett that Senator Johnson had just made, let me tell you that I have some concern that we don't, and I'm not sure that I want to use the term, as Senator Johnson did, that we are not, as FHA sometimes is called, the lender of last resort. What I am more fearful of is that we don't create a mechanism whereby, which I think FHA generally does, people like to term it the lender of last resort, but in reality, in my experience, their monies generally go to those people that don't need it anyhow. So the low interest rates go to those folks that probably could get money somewhere else. I'm interested in Senator Johnson's comments about his amendment he would like to put on on Select File. I don't know what a Class A loan is right now. I don't know what kind of a situation you'd have where you've got an agricultural producer needing, needing some assistance to get credit where there isn't any credit available now, where there is not going to be a risk. If that is what we're talking about, then it seems to me that this Legislature and the government had ought to "fess" up. It ought to say we really don't care about a large percentage of the people involved in agriculture because there is no way in the world that you can take an agricultural enterprise, reduce the dollar amounts of your