

resolution, and again I want to commend the Farm Bureau Federation, the Nebraska Farm Bureau Federation for their very realistic approach to a very serious problem. I'd like to ask Senator Vickers now to take over the balance of my time and I'm sure he has some comments and then others, of course, will address the issue also.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Thank you. Senator Vickers, please.

SENATOR VICKERS: Thank you, Senator Schmit. Mr. President, members, I, too, would like to ask you to vote for LR 366 commending the American Farm Bureau for the efforts that they have taken in this regard, and I thought it was interesting that Senator Schmit would mention the fact that agriculture has gone through these kinds of times before and he pointed out that they did in the thirties, the fifties, the sixties, the seventies, and now in the eighties and I don't know whether anybody else caught that or not, but people like Senator Schmit and I might have missed the thirties, but we've sure been here through the fifties, the sixties and the seventies and now the eighties and I'm getting a little tired of it. But I think it's appropriate that this Legislature go on record in helping this farm group who has come up with this mechanism that says basically one thing and that is that we, those of us in agriculture, recognize the fact that we made those commitments and that we're willing to fulfill those commitments, but we just need a little breathing room, we need a little time in which to do it. So, I want to stress the fact that this is not a debt forgiveness program, but simply a mechanism to set aside a little bit so that it will give those people who are having so much difficulty under the economic conditions today the ability to handle the amount of debt that they've got and eventually pay it all back. As Senator Schmit mentioned, this was done back in the thirties and it helped a lot of people. I hope most of you saw the headlines in yesterday's papers. We will be discussing, we have discussed before in this body, the structure of agriculture through Initiative 300. We will be discussing that structure again, but I'll tell you the structure is going to be changed dramatically. The headline yesterday said one million farmers projected to be out of business or less farmers by the year 2000 and that will dramatically affect the structure in Nebraska. It will dramatically affect the small towns in Nebraska, the businesses in Nebraska and it seems to me that the mechanism