

said, it is a difficult issue, and I will live with whatever this body chooses to do but I think it is important we begin the discussion of what we are going to do in the future for agriculture and for the people who are out there severely distressed, in very difficult economic conditions, who may be in the process of losing their homes, who may be in the process of losing their farms, and I would like to find a way to help them if it is possible. If it is impossible, then, fine, let's not pass 999. Let's find some other vehicle that we can pass that will help but I am not going to wash my hands of this issue this year. I am going to try to do my very best based on what I think is a severe social issue that has to be addressed some time down the line, and I know Senator Lynch is not here today, but he brought to me the point, well, why don't we do this for the business people as well...

SPEAKER NICHOL: Time.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: ...who are losing their businesses. I will try and speak again later.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Schmit, then Senator Hoagland.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Well, Mr. President and members, I recognize that this is an issue which tears us apart sometimes because I recognize the sincerity of what Senator Rod Johnson is trying to do, in fact, you almost might say the necessity of what he is attempting to do here, while at the same time we recognize that there may be some unintended consequences that come to play if the bill becomes law. I think that it is going to be most interesting as this bill is debated the sort of conversation that you will hear from a lot of us who have very close ties to the agricultural sector. Senator DeCamp pointed out some of the problems. Senator Rod Johnson has pointed out some. We know there are problems. There is something else that we know of and that is that there is a very, very serious situation out there and perhaps the introduction of this bill in itself will call attention to the fact that the situation is extremely serious. I have an amendment for the bill which I will not offer today. I have discussed it with Senator Johnson and I would like to have you read it. The amendment is on your desk. The amendment provides for utilization of a Public Counsel as a mediator, requires notice of foreclosure, requires that the Public Counsel will be notified, and then