

only occupation that they've known all their life. And I can tell you every time...every weekend, when I go home, I hear of somebody new. Some of them are in their...are past their working age. If you think this only affects the young people, if you think this agriculture situation only affects those people who have been actively out there expanding, you are wrong. It affects people that are 70 years old. It affects people that are just getting started. It affects people who have been in the business for years and now maybe in their fifties, early sixties. I don't think that a lot of people understand. I don't think a lot of people understand what happens in those situations. You are 55, 60 years old, you suddenly are faced with the possibility of having to have a new occupation, a new job, that you never had any other job other than to be a farmer or a rancher. You have to have a job even though you might be close to retirement age because you don't have any retirement. You know we debate retirement issues in here, and it is awfully difficult, I know, for a lot of people who are not self-employed to understand what it is like to have your retirement be the equity in your land, or the equity in your business, and suddenly that equity is totally gone. You know there would be...Senator Harris mentioned Commonwealth. If the retirement money set aside for all the public employees would suddenly lose its value until there would not be...only about a fourth or a third of the monies available, this state would be in chacs, and yet that is exactly what has happened to people in rural Nebraska. That is exactly what has happened to somebody that maybe doesn't owe a dime, but yet are ready to retire, they don't have any retirement monies left, or it is about a fourth or a third of what it was. Now a lot of these people don't have any other places to turn. They've got to go on, they've got to find another job. This agriculture transition program has been helping them to get through that tough hurdle. Now as I indicated earlier, in our efforts to meet the pressures of those people who are saying hold the line on the budget, don't raise the taxes, don't spend any more monies than absolutely necessary, and then just adopt the appropriations bill as it comes out, don't make any changes in it, don't reallocate anything, then if that is what you want to do and recognize the results of it, so be it. But I think we ought to at least consider the results for our actions. I ask for the adoption of this amendment.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Question is, shall the Vickers amendment