

upon a number of occasions that the Omaha Chamber does, in fact, keep in touch with outer Nebraska, greater Nebraska, but I suggest that there is a distinct difference between the economy in Omaha, Nebraska, and that which exists in most of the rest of the state. I would like to point out also I know a little bit about the University of Nebraska. I am a graduate of that institution. Seven of my children have graduated from that institution. Two have attended it. One of my sons is a graduate of the Military Academy at West Point, and I would suggest that I have had a little bit of opportunity to compare quality of education. I well recall my own days at that institution with lot of satisfaction, and that isn't going to boast about how well I turned out, but as I suggested, I did have good professors, a good, excellent education. I think it is important, probably more so than many people on this floor. I think also we have heard it said on this floor many times, you don't solve a problem by throwing money at it. I am going to suggest one more point of view, and that is we have in the past tried to solve a problem by putting money into it, but we usually had a reservoir. We usually had some source. We usually had some idea that perhaps the economy was going to grow, something was going to occur to bring this about so we would have the money. Now we don't have the money. It is as simple as that. It is like a lot of businessmen, a lot of farmers, a lot of other people, when you run out, you run out. Now I have talked to many of you individually that have told me frankly, honestly, that you support the idea, but for a variety of reasons, you just can't give me the vote. I am going to suggest that we talk about laying off state employees, I know what it is like to lay off employees, loyal employees, hardworking employees, I know what that is like. I don't like to do it, didn't like to do it, don't want to do it, but when the resources aren't there, you do what you have to do. Someone said, oh, but we have unlimited resources. I suggest those resources are not unlimited, and there comes a point in time, there comes a point in time, when we all share and share alike. State employees are not immune. They are not immune to the economy that exists in the State of Nebraska today, and when someone says you can't get by without a raise, I am going to call attention to the fact that the agricultural income of the State of Nebraska will decline precipitously between now and next year, and many of those individuals who have said, well, we are going to be doing better, and doing better, are going to find some other alibi. We were told that when inflation declined, interest rates would decline and business would pick up. Inflation came down from double digit to the lower single