

the bill to the Agriculture Committee, he made it clear or at least his staff people made it clear to me and I think to many of us on that committee that this was not a lender of last resort, that it was not, this authority was not to be perceived as an entity that people could go to, where they could not get credit elsewhere and come to and try and find some last resort financing. That was never the intent of the bill that I understand it. I think that what we're trying to do in subsection 1 here of my amendments is to protect the state's interest as Senator Vard Johnson is bringing that question up by saying that the investment quality has to be a very high quality loan. And the fact is that this entity is never once put together with the idea that it would be a direct lender, that it was a secondary lender at best and that we are trying to protect the interest by this amendment. I recognize what Senator Vickers is trying to do. I think we all do, at least all of us who represent rural areas and represent rural constituencies understand that there are severe problems, credit problems for certain farmers out there who are not going to find credit this spring or next spring and it would be nice to look at LB 849 as a particular entity that we could go to or our banker could go to to get us some financing, but that isn't the purpose of the bill and I don't think that, if you ask Governor Kerrey tomorrow that that was the intent of his offering the bill. It was to try and provide for some long-term credit for agriculture for those who qualify. Unfortunately, I said this on the floor of the Legislature last week and I'll reiterate again, we have come to a point I think, or we are rapidly reaching a point where with the limited amount of resources that we have in the state we're going to have to probably make some tough decisions. This is the first step I think in that long process of making tough decisions for the State of Nebraska as far as who we're going to help and unfortunately who we're going to have to say we just simply cannot, through our financial resources, provide any credit for those particular needy people, and that's just being downright honest about the situation. The state does not have the resources to bail out every farmer who is experiencing financial trouble. This bill will certainly not do that. Senator Vickers is very correct. But what we are trying to do is to bring in some long-term capital to the state that may not be here right now or may not be here in the future and we're trying to protect the state's interest again by issuing quality loans, or bonds in this case, to protect the interest of our state. I recognize, as I said, Senator Vickers' opposition to this amendment. I anticipated that when I put the bill in, or put the amendment in, but let's call it like it is and the fact