

would ask Senator Lynch, and I know he is not listening right now, but I guess I would like to have asked Senator Lynch when was the last time that the federal government, the federal government through action at the federal level said that his commodity, we are going to put some pipe or whatever it is that they sell in their plumbing business, on the market from some other source, and we're going to drive the prices of his product down as a result of it. I don't know whether the federal government does that in most other businesses or not, but they do it in agriculture all the time. I'll give you an example, I'll give you an example. The federal government, right now, is buying dairy cows. They are going to buy dairy cows. We all know there are going to be dairy cows to help hold down milk production, right. They're going to spend 1.83 billion of your dollars to buy 1.6 million dairy cows, and that is an average of \$1,143 per head, and we all think boy that is really going to be a good deal because it is going to help hold down the cost of the milk program. Of that 1.6 million dairy animals only 951,000 of them are milking cows, 340 plus thousand are heifers and 200...and almost 260,000 of them are calves. Of those calves you could even have steer or bull calves involved. That is under the current farm bill. Now you are taking your dollars, your income tax dollars, you're buying steer calves in an effort to hold down the amount of milk produced, and you are driving my prices down. And you are telling me that I've got to operate like any other businessman. I would, I would if the federal government would quit doing those kinds of things to me. Now if you can tell me how buying steer calves is going to cut down on milk production, then I guess you know more about livestock than I do. I know I'm just a poor country boy, and I wish I was as smart as the folks in Washington, D.C....

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR VICKERS: ...so I would figure out how buying steer calves was going to help future milk production. So I would just like to make one point and that is that we would like to be businessmen, we would like to be treated as business people. We are willing to pay off our debts, but for God sakes we'd like to have the federal government start treating us as business people as well. And we'd like to be able to operate without those kinds of things coming down against us. But since we don't, I guess I would argue that maybe we're not quite the same as the businessmen up and down the street. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Hoagland, please.