

SPEAKER NICHOL: The call is raised. Senator Vickers.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President, members, the first thing I would like to ask you to do is to look at today's Journal, page 63, LR 6. I would like you to read through that resolution and see whether or not you are going to vote for that resolution. Let me tell you a little bit...I don't mean to get into that resolution, but I think we almost have to in order to discuss this amendment. About a month ago, Senator Schmit, Senator Johnson, and myself had a discussion or two and we decided that we needed to try to get our institutions of higher learning who are already in the business of providing farm management services which is designed to give actual farmers already in the business a little bit better management skills as far as their record keeping and so forth is concerned, that we would like them, and we went to them and asked them if they would as quickly as possible jointly work together to establish a crisis management system in order to help people who are under severe economic stress, and I can tell you it is severe economic stress, and I will give you a personal example. My banker told my son yesterday that maybe we had not ought to be purchasing our seed corn requirements for next year until the bank decided whether they wanted to stick with us next year or not. At the same time they know we are expanding and buying more cows. Now you tell me how to explain that, I can't. My son called me last night, talk about being under stress, are we in business or aren't we? I don't know. And that is the way it is throughout rural Nebraska. People don't know whether they have got a tomorrow or not. And, Senator Nelson, as you and I both know, it is not just people involved in production agriculture, it is the business people out there as well. They don't know whether they have got a tomorrow or not. We went to those folks and said, would you set up a mechanism whereby these people will have an ability to measure exactly where they are at, and then be able to, with some help from an outsider, examine their options, examine where they maybe can begin to go to work their way out of this system. And the analogy that I have used is that there is a lot of folks on the Niagara River, and they are in canoes and they are going downstream, and there are some of them whose bow of the canoe is already over the Falls, and those are the people that Farmers in Transition Program is going to help, but there is a lot of folks that are upstream and are still headed down towards