

Senator Rogers. Senator Vickers.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President, members, I, too, rise to oppose the DeCamp amendment. I don't want to repeat many of the points that Senator Schmit and Senator Lamb both made. But I do think this is an issue that we ought to be considering very seriously. I couldn't help but think when Senator Schmit was just concluding with his remarks when he mentioned what goes around comes around. That is absolutely true. It wouldn't be the first time that the farm credit system has been in trouble. It wouldn't be the first time that the federal government has helped by putting some funds in to make it so it could survive. But that didn't mean that the whole system was wrong. I guess I have a little bit of a problem when Senator DeCamp and others, including some of our own representatives in the Congress, have made statements to the effect that they are not going to bail out the farm credit system because of mismanagement within the farm credit system. I don't want to defend all the management practices within that system, but the fact of the matter is it wasn't mismanagement within the farm credit system that is causing the problems today, it is mismanagement, as Senator Schmit pointed out, by the current administration and previous administrations, both democrat and republican and by the mismanagement of the Congress as it relates to those issues that affect agriculture and many other small businesses. It is not fair, furthermore, in my opinion, to say that because that system is owned by those people who use it, by the borrowers, that somehow that makes the system itself suspect and that we probably ought to change that total structure of that system. If you use that same philosophy then you would say that the rural electrification system shouldn't operate because it too is owned and controlled by the users. You would say that perhaps George Norris, whom this Chamber was named after, was totally wrong. Well, if you do that, we'll be back out there scooping corn with scoop shovels. Well, maybe we wouldn't have such a surplus perhaps. But I'll tell you I don't believe that concept. I don't believe changing the structure is going to make any difference. I am a little concerned, as Senator DeCamp points out, that any attempt by government to help this system might translate into only helping the system itself and not helping those of us who have borrowed from it. So I would urge you to consider the next resolution that will be coming up to try to send a message that we do want some consideration for those people