

agriculture unless interest rates come down and commodity prices improve and/or the cost of agricultural inputs come down, I don't care who you are eventually you will go broke. If it costs you \$1,500 a month to live and you are making \$1,200 a month and you've got a net worth of \$50,000, eventually you are broke. You are going to spend more than you take in and you are broke. American agriculture today is spending more than we take in. Some can say, oh, but John Doe is getting along fine. I'll guarantee you that you are not getting along fine selling corn for less today than we sold it in 1947. If you think you can survive on that when the cost of inputs have gone up ten times, try it in any other kind of system, try it in any other kind of system. It won't work. There are plans whereby the system can be made to function, but you've got to improve farm prices, you've got to reduce interest costs or else you've got to lower the cost of inputs. American agriculture can survive with 1985 prices and 1985 income. We cannot survive with 1947 income and 1985 prices anymore than anyone else can. I've gone through that disparity many times and will not bore you with it now. But I want to emphasize once again that no amount of assistance to the present system of agriculture will be of any value unless you turn around the commodity prices, unless you make agriculture prosperous again and that can be done, just as it was done before by the free enterprise system working. But the thing that ruined American agriculture was the intervention of the federal government time, after time, after time, since 1973. Every time farmers became a little bit prosperous there was an effort made by various administrations, from President Nixon on, to knock the props out from under American agriculture. I do not believe that it was accidental. There are those who say do not attribute to guile and intelligence that which can be done through stupidity and ignorance. But I am firmly convinced that there are people at the national level who felt that the only manner in which you can continue to provide low cost food for the masses is to wipe out 40 years of assets of two generations of American farmers. I support this resolution, but I'm going to say also that it is only the beginning. It is going to be very important that the entire agricultural system be recognized for what it is, a very sick entity, and that is going to be reflected more and more as we continue our discussion here in the next few days. I want to say once more you can't have cancer in one part of your body and the rest of the body be healthy. You can't have gangrene in a