

CLERK: The resolution is 94, the amendment is 101.

SENATOR VICKERS: Thank you. I think this is an issue that has been discussed quite a bit on this floor. I think most of us are familiar with the issue and I would just move the adoption of our amendment to LR 9. And the differences between the two amendments, so we can reiterate it one more time, is that we are attempting to say with our resolution, with our amendment, that the federal government does have some moral obligations to agriculture, to the agricultural producers of this country, to the entire Midwestern area as far as credit needs are concerned. And I would like to use this opportunity, since Senator DeCamp had raised the question the last time we were discussing this particular issue, as to how an infusion of funds into the Farm Credit System might help an individual farmer if, in fact, they were already in severe economic distress and I want to make it clear that if you're already being foreclosed upon by your Farm Credit System, it's probably not going to help you. That's true. If you're already over the edge of the cliff or fallen off the cliff, it's probably not going to be any help. But if you're one of those people that are still barely hanging on, still able to make your payments and if there isn't some assistance to the Farm Credit System, if they don't get some more capital, they are going to be even more active in their foreclosing or trying to liquidate some of their liabilities and we consider many of those people as liabilities. So they would be more aggressive in their foreclosure policies without a doubt, in my opinion, without an influx of capital. So I think it would help a lot of individual farmers. Now there have been accusations about the mismanagement of the Farm Credit System. There have been accusations that if they had managed it correctly they wouldn't be in this position they are in right now. Well I'm not going to stand up here and defend the management of that system. The management of that system probably hasn't been the best, but I'll tell you, with the best of management, with the prices that we've had in agriculture in the last few years, with the cash flow that we've simply not had, with the best of management that system would be in deep trouble. The mismanagement, if there is any, is on the East coast in the policies of the federal government in its treating of agriculture, not the mismanagement of the Farm Credit System. Furthermore, I would say that, as opposed to Senator DeCamp's original resolution, I happen to believe