

many years. And you took a system that probably should have been left to function pretty much in the free enterprise zone and you made it really a puppet of federal government policy from year to year. You destroyed the system with the subsidies. So, yes, it's in trouble, but how did it get there? Sure, government intervention was a part of it, but the government was subsidizing it. That was just one more intervention. Now, Senator Schmit suggested the other day that the Farm Credit System had been run as efficiently as any bank and that the growth was no greater than any other bank. I have handed out some figures and I'd at least like you to give a little attention to them. In 1975 the Farm Federal Land Bank, loans outstanding, were 1.675 billion, 1.5 billion. Look at the growth, and remember, this is simply investor money being poured in and I think you know what went on during those years in your minds and hearts, you know what went on. The PCAs, the Federal Land Bank went out almost on a money pushing binge, pushing money into some people that probably shouldn't have had it and then when they did start getting problems, instead of stopping it, they started using the banking system to actually borrow money to make the annual payments. They just fed it, fed the inflation. 1975, 1.5 billion; 1976 it is up to 2.1 billion; '77, 2.5 billion; '78, 3 billion; '79, 3.7; '80, 4.6 billion; '81, 5.6; '82, 7.1 billion. There is no financial system, responsibly, that can grow at those rates and push money into a limited area in those quantities without creating and feeding the very inflation, the very inflation that was causing trouble a few years ago and which when it collapsed, created the problem for the farmer now that is tied into that high debt. The solution, I repeat, is going to be painful but it involves a process. It involves a process of a lot of people taking losses to get rid of that debt.

SENATOR HABERMAN: One minute, Senator.

SENATOR DECAMP: That includes bankers. That includes farmers and it sure as blazes includes the Farm Credit System with its reserves and even its bondholders. Never in the history of this country has the federal government stepped in and simply given multibillions of dollars to bail out a 100 percent private system, financial system, or anything else. If you do it here, you're going to set some dangerous precedents and I think the Congress knows that and that is one of the main reasons that this plan of the Farm