

it never was what people projected and portrayed it as being. There has always been a romanticized notion of farming and the farmer. But such an individual, such an operation never existed. Farming has been given a sugared tit of subsidies by this government from the very beginning and the sugared tit is now dried up. There is no more nutrients and there are too many people in farming producing too much. There is too much of what is produced by farms now. It can no longer support agriculture as an industry, can no longer support the number of people who are participating in it. We are going to have more and more people thrown off the farm. Last year over 2,000 farmers and ranchers were out of business in Nebraska and that figure is expected to be increased next year. Where are these people going to go? What will become of them? They are the new undone class in this state and in other farm and agricultural sections of the country. If you want to, you can take the bill as the lenders want it and say when the problem arises of these people having no place to go, that will be soon enough to deal with it because we won't be in the Legislature then, but as people who are supposed to be statespersons, as well as politicians, we are to formulate policy by anticipating the problems that the citizens will have that they cannot settle on their own. Maybe a farmer will lose everything except the home if the bill goes in the form I would like to see it in, and maybe the town that he or she could get a job in will close down, too, and ultimately that farm person and family will have to leave. But after you have lost everything, that may be the time, more than at any other time, when you need some place where you could sit and regroup and figure out what it is you are going to do, where you are going to go, and not just go out into the barn and put a gun in your mouth and pull the trigger. And this is what is happening in other states. It has happened here on a number of occasions and it will happen more. I think it is unfair, I think it is unconscionable to take everything that somebody has when you can anticipate in advance that that is what we are moving toward and we can do something to at least soften the blow. We cannot save these farmers. We cannot save their farms and we know it. Since this Foxley person put thousands of acres up for sale out in the Sandhills, it is clear that agriculture as people once viewed it in this state...

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...is not going to remain as it was. But we still have the people even after the farms no longer function, and I think we need to look at it in human terms. The bankers