

most skillful presenters of his point of view, but sometimes he clouds the issue by not dealing clearly with that which is before us. Senator Harris said this bill is not going to help troubled farmers. This bill is not aimed at troubled farmers, this bill is aimed at the doomed farmer. This is aimed at the one who can no longer farm. So the misrepresentation of the appropriate area of discussion is in trying to present the bill as being designed to keep doomed farmers in farming. It is designed to keep them with a roof over their head as a transitional point, while they move from that farming to something else because even if they remain in that homestead, they obviously are not going to be able to stay there forever. Little towns are gone, little communities are gone, churches are gone, businesses are gone, stores are gone, he or she or they would be sitting out there in the middle of nowhere as the relics for the eastern tourist to drive by, take photographs of to show what the bucolic life in Nebraska on the failed farm is like. Maybe they could make money selling photographs, being the ones to be photographed for the tourist. But at any rate I remember, and then I'm going to get back directly to this, Senator DeCamp got through a bill last session which I was opposed to because it wanted to give the banks what we never want to give the farmers. If the banks had to write off all of their losses in a single year, a lot of them would go under. The federal government talked about allowing banks to spread it out over five years. This is what John wanted because it is what the banks want and what the banks want they get. I was saying that here is John asking for the banks exactly what the farmers have been asking for. Give me a little time. And, we say, no, to the farmer but, yes, to the banks. That bill was passed even though the federal government was considering a similar thing. So now there is talk of Chapter 12 in bankruptcy being considered at the federal level, therefore, nothing should be done at the state level. But that argument never obtains when we are doing something for the bankers, the lenders or the loan sharks of the state. Now Senator Harris I think is very sincere in what he says. But he and Senator DeCamp mislead everybody in this state if they would imply that a person who would be at a small enough scale to be called a family farmer should even be allowed to enter farming the first time. That is not viable for that person, and for the Legislature to allow a system to continue to exist or encourage it where somebody on that scale will go into farming is to produce failure. Those who have been in farming at that level for a period of years cannot make it. They are not large enough. They cannot produce enough to make a living, although they can produce enough to