

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Chambers, please.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, this session was called, supposedly, to deal with some problems existing in LB 999. Those problems, supposedly, exist because lenders say they will not extend credit to certain classes of farmers because of the existence of LB 999. There was a task force set up and opposing points of view were offered, and when a bill was finally brought to the Legislature a special session had been called which even the Governor acknowledged is a lenders' special session. It has been conducted as a lenders' session. Even people such as Senator Schmit, who has supported amendments, those individuals have said that the purpose is to give the lenders what they have asked for. So, the lenders have just about won. Senator DeCamp brought in an amendment that allowed farmers to waive the right to save their homestead, and that is a lenders' amendment. Whenever you have a lame duck in office who can still wield that kind of power, it is because water is being carried for those who have power and will be here after the lame duck is gone. Anybody who would have carried that amendment could have gotten it done because the power was out there in the lobby. The word came in the lobby, abolish the waiver, and the echo, through Senator DeCamp, in the Chamber, abolish the waiver. And the Legislature, a majority, went along because of that pressure. I've got to say a word in Senator DeCamp's behalf now that I've mentioned that word of criticism. Those lenders ought to give him a job after he's no longer here, because he has worked very hard and effectively for them. I'm going to see what they do. But Senator DeCamp is not naive. He knows the nature of those individuals. And he knows, as I know, and as everybody on this floor who is conscious knows, and especially Senator Rod Johnson, that a hoax has been worked, and this bill is not designed to help the stressed farmer. It is an exercise in politics, pure and simple, or impure and complex. I'm somewhat bitter because I remember how, last session, Senator Johnson was ready to throw his hands up and let the bill be killed, and I had to stand on this floor and make some unpleasant comments addressed towards Senator Johnson and his willingness to let the bill go. I even made the demeaning remark that you shouldn't send a boy to do a man's job, reminded the Legislature that I had put my name on as a co-sponsor to guard against that very contingency of the bill being allowed to fall. And, had I not gotten up and made that spirited defense of LB 999, it would have gone by the boards last session. Senator Johnson is a young man. Senator Johnson is somewhat of a neophyte in the ways of politics, but he is intelligent, too,