

do so. When that happens they immediately, of course, repair to the nearest community and because of desperation they accept whatever employment is available. And in many instances those jobs are minimum wage jobs and in some instances those are jobs which are presently being held by women, low income women, women with limited education and other skills, jobs that are held by Mexican-Americans and jobs that are held by Native Americans. We all know very..that history will tell us that these individuals are the last to be hired and the first to be let go, and as the percentage of unemployment increases, the problems among these particular minorities are going to increase dramatically. It is kind of interesting that we find ourselves discussing this amount of money, and as I said earlier, time after time after time, and I hope the time will come and we can discuss some of the other alternatives. As I indicated earlier, if I could be assured that the \$100,000 for the Scottsbluff nursing home (sic) is going to go there and was going to maintain that program and sustain that program, I'd look at it differently, but you and I know that we cannot do that. What we can do is to give some semblance of hope to a very small group of individuals who have historically been ignored traditionally in the past. The federal government has sent a direct message to these groups that, in effect, you're on your own and you're going to have to do things by yourselves. This morning's newspaper indicated there was going to be a counselling service set up for farmers. It's probably a good idea. Most of those farmers would have preferred to have kept their farms, but they are going to have to go through some sort of an assistance program. Many of the individuals affected by these advocacy programs have no advocate, have no broad constituency. None of us, none of us will lose enough votes by voting to strike this money to wad a muzzle-loaded shotgun. It is just not going to happen. This is one of those instances where you must vote your convictions, that there are certain segments of society, certain individuals who must depend upon the rest of us to be their advocate. Time after time on this floor each and every one of you have done that for an individual or a segment of society that needed it. In this instance the groups which we have referred to and the amendment which Senator Landis has spoken to addresses that problem. We're not going to balance the budget whether we leave this money in or out. We're not going to cause an increase or a decrease in the sales tax or income tax by what we do in this regard. This is a matter of conscience. Now there are those who say we should not...should not be a function of state government to advocate or be the advocate for these groups. And I ask you to take a look at what I have handed you