

April 18, 1973

**PRESIDENT:** The chair recognizes Senator Johnson, then Senator Chambers.

**SENATOR JOHNSON:** Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I rise to support the Resolution. I know there is a large number of farmers in Dodge County that are now at a great disadvantage because of changes. The same is true in other counties, of course, but they rang the phone off of the wall for several days after the change was made and I hope something can be done. As has been mentioned before, this might not help but nothing ventured, nothing gained and I am 100% for it.

**PRESIDENT:** The chair recognizes Senator Chambers.

**SENATOR CHAMBERS:** Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I am unfamiliar with exactly what the feed grain program is, so would somebody briefly explain to me what is actually involved.

**PRESIDENT:** Senator Keyes, do you care to respond?

**SENATOR KEYES:** Yes, Mr. President. Senator Chambers, I am a farmer and the farmers over this state are paid about 30¢ a bushel subsidy payment on the grain that they don't raise on the yield of their acreage. This means that under the program as it was set up three or four or five months ago, whenever Mr. Butts decided how he wanted to run it, that a farmer could sign up for 25% of his base and receive 30¢ a bushel times his average yield for a certain percent of his base. It amounts to on my farm, I think, in the vicinity of...at the 25% that I signed up, it amounts to about...close to \$2,000 on the two places. They decided after they had this program in effect that they would cut the 25% down to 10% and let you receive the same amount of money for 10% that you were receiving for 25%, and those farmers that didn't sign it at all, would like to sign up for the 10% and receive some funds because this is enough money to help you buy your gas and oil and tractor fuel and expenses of farming. You see the policy of this program that they have now is to create a surplus in the United States and beat the price of grain down. At the same time Senator Burbach was in Washington, I heard this man speak in California and this was the main theme of every department of government in Washington except the Department of Agriculture is to get the price of grain down to get the price of food down and it is much cheaper, they feel, to subsidize the farming interest of this nation and produce all they can than it is to let the farmer make a decent price and charge extra. So that is the main throw of the farm organization. While I am up, I certainly support anybody going back there.

**SENATOR CHAMBERS:** Senator Keyes, if I may, would he answer a question or two, if he will.

**PRESIDENT:** Senator Keyes, will you yield?

**SENATOR KEYES:** I'll try. I don't have the answers.

**SENATOR CHAMBERS:** Did I understand you correctly when you said the payment is for grain which is not grown, is not raised?

**SENATOR KEYES:** Yes, you get...wait, you get 30¢, 35, 30¢ a bushel for the average...a certain percent of the average yield on the amount of grain that you...the amount of acres you reduce, say. It's a guarantee of 30¢ above market price.

**SENATOR CHAMBERS:** So, this is not a payment on the grain that is actually raised to give you a higher price for what you