

January 16, 1985

LB 2
LR 14

unless there is a proper agenda and I know Senator Nichol, as our leader, will do that but I just want to make my feelings felt that unless we have a consensus of a number of states following in our footsteps and that we definitely got to see top people like the President, Block, Stockman, the Ag members of the House and the Senate, and so on. And I feel it would be a waste of time of the people in the group to go and I think it would be a waste of the taxpayers money if we do less than that. And there again, I think Speaker Nichol will put it all together and I think it will work. Now, why another resolution, farm resolution? We already passed LR 2 regarding the farm economy. That resolution, as you know, focused on high interest rates. Granted, interest rates are a big part of the problem but there are other problems and other solutions. What LR 14 is about is getting some money in the hands of the farmer while tackling some of the other related problems. This resolution would allow the farmer to get better prices for his farm commodities but it would also help to ease the deficit and would contribute to the feeding of the world's hungry people. The federal government was able to think big and think creatively when Chrysler and Continental Bank and those were in trouble. Somehow it just hasn't been able to do that kind of thinking and planning now when the farmers are in trouble. LR 14 starts to do some of that planning for them. To me the farm crisis is greater than Chrysler or Continental or any other things that have happened in the past. LR 14 envisions a plan whereby we cut back on some of the dollars being sent overseas and substitute farm commodities for those dollars. The dollars...the money held back would go into the hands of the farmers and the food into feeding hungry nations. Maybe if some of those countries that are poor and had more to eat they would think less about fighting. Why not give them...let's set an example, a country that is appropriated \$2 million in foreign aid from us, maybe a million dollars in foreign aid and a million dollars in some kind of a crop like corn which they would need. Then the government, if this program was to work in any way, the government would have to figure out a formula that would be used to reimburse them for these foreign aid commodities they grew and the country would get aid in the form it can use immediately, food. There is no reason why the federal government could not step in right now and buy up large amounts of farm commodities to start and run this program and this is not just a problem here or just in the midwest. I have recently talked to friends in