

agriculture simply can not pay the interest rates that we have right now. That is the real problem that I think Senator Schmit and Senator DeCamp are trying to address. But to paraphrase a statement that was made a few years ago, it is the right problem but I believe that it is the wrong solution. I would urge the body's looking this over very carefully. I think that the intent is great, as I said yesterday, but I am not sure in my own mind that this is going to satisfy the problems. I think that it is going to intensify it in some areas instead.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Schmit, do you want to close on your motion or on your amendment?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I'd have to concur with what Senator Vickers said in regard to the lack of attractive rates of interest that are available for agriculture at the present time. I think that probably spreads clear across industry. What we are trying to do with this amendment is to insure that the funds, if they become available, will be used by those individuals who would not have the opportunity to enter into agriculture in the normal manner. We know that it is difficult enough as Senator Kahle said yesterday for anyone to make a profit in the agricultural area at the present time. We wanted to have some sort of limiting criteria so that those individuals who are well established would not use these funds to the detriment of the ones for whom they were intended. As we discussed the matter of the aggregate amount of the loan, I'm not sure either, Senator Vickers, if that is going to be adequate or not. It might not be. That might have to be changed at some other time. We discussed the net worth aspect of trying to limit the availability of the money. It is very, very difficult as you know to start any kind of an enterprise without having some kind of net worth and yet when you put that figure in there, as our friends in Iowa found out, it almost made it impossible for the program to operate. So we decided to put a limitation on the amount of the loan and then allow the board to make the decision as to eligibility based upon net worth. We hope that it will work that way, Senator Vickers, that is the way we intend it to work. I know that these programs have operated with some success in neighboring states. We have tried to write out some of the problems that they have had in neighboring states and hopefully we have addressed the issue. I would just say this. If there is tighter language, better language that we could work out Senator Vickers between now and the next stage, I'll be glad to take a look at it with you. If not, I guess I'm going to just ask that the amendment be adopted at the present time in the form in which it is at the present time.