

person who wants to get into the farming operation but somebody who already is in the farming operation who has some equity i.e. he owns some personal property, he owns some equipment that is mostly paid for and he owns a little bit of land but he needs to expand. What today...farmers in this body, what is the efficient unit? Is it a section of land? Is it a section and a half of land? If that is what it is, then it would seem to me that we want to have a program which would assist in encouraging enough owners who also operate their land to be able to acquire additional land surrounding what they have so that they can farm that efficiently. I believe the \$300,000 figure is a responsible figure. I am like Senator Sieck. I am like Senator Barrett. It would be hard for me to justify a totally open-ended loan program....

SPEAKER MARVEL: Your....

SENATOR V. JOHNSON:but we provide reasonable constraints....

SPEAKER MARVEL: One minute.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON:as both Senator Sieck and Senator Schmit have attempted to do, then it seems to me we are acting very responsibly designed to continue to further the cause of owner occupied farming industry.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. Speaker, in good conscience I have to rise to support Senator Schmit's amendment because I have stood here before on several occasions and asked you to support certain kinds of programs that primarily and heavily emphasize the urban side, community improvement financing...I could name a number of others. We have done that to stimulate an economy of an urban center, why should we not be to some degree fair in how we try to stimulate the agricultural industry as well. This is not unreasonable. This is not high risk. In fact, if I had my way I would sooner see a figure larger than this knowing the costs of agriculture today. We have talked about family farms in here for several years. Most of us have had some concerns about this. But to me, if we want to stimulate young men and women of this state to spend their life in the great endeavor of agriculture, this may be a way to help to stimulate that. Therefore, I would hope that many of you would reconsider a position that I had when I first looked at this bill where it was somewhat suspect. Right now I