

suggests that we should protect our resources, protect our land so there is no question about it. But, I wonder if our concern shouldn't be with the...over what is being done to the land rather than the approach which is taken in this bill which is who is doing it to the land. Senator Koch, our learned colleague suggests that we should close tax loopholes and I think perhaps this should be the bottom line too to the preservation of our family farms. Perhaps, perhaps we should look to Washington for changing the present tax laws which do make it so advantageous for corporate entities to purchase Nebraska farmland. I believe that it was Senator Koch who also suggested that we might be over reacting to an emotional issue and I think that there is an element of truth to that also because if the bill were stripped of its emotion I think we might very well find that the bill is unnecessary, unworkable and perhaps even unconstitutional. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Johnson.

SENATOR JOHNSON: (mike not activated)....wholehearted support of Senator Burrows bill. I have really been very appreciative of Senator Burrows over the past ~~three~~ years that I have been here in bringing this measure to us time and again for our approval which we have not given, but we ought to. Senator Wiitala and Senator Sieck and others have talked at length about the relationship between corporate ownership of farmland and poor soil conservation practices. I have in my hand a study done by the Select Committee on Small Business, United States Senate, dated January 10, 1980. In that study the committee notes the following: Several studies in the testimony of Dr. Rotterfield indicated that farmland ownership by non-farmers leads to exploitation of the soil, over cropping, soil erosion and generally poor conservation practices. Logically an investor holding land for relatively short term gain rather than for the purpose of farming it for his lifetime and passing it on would want to maximize the production of the soil during the soil that it was being rendered and managed, especially if it is hoped to sell the land for development rather than for farming purposes. Yesterday when we dealt with Senator Schmit's amendment to the appropriation bill to provide more monies for water resource development, there were a number of us on the floor who said simply that soil and water is probably the most priceless asset that we have in this state. I agree with that wholeheartedly. I think that it is concomitant upon us to take all of the steps that we can take to protect our soil and to insure the continued stewardship and use of our water. If this bill, by restricting who owns our land aids in that direction, then we ought to support it all the way. Now Senator Wiitala also mentioned that corporate ownership of farmland has a tendency to destroy the kind of community, the kind of community that is inherent in farming practices in this country. Now you and I are direct descendants, I guess of