

oil anymore. Farmers are encouraged to continue to overproduce and they are continued by that federal government sugar-tit that rewards, in many cases, incompetency, waste, carelessness. There is a difference between a farmer and a gambler. Those who engaged in the leverage buying of land, the overplanting, the speculating, were gamblers and they probably were hoping that before the bottom fell out or the whole structure collapsed they could make their money and get out or make enough money to continue with a smaller operation that would allow it to be a viable, commercial enterprise. A lot of follow-alongs, who saw big farmers who ought to know what is going on doing this, followed along and they got caught. They're in the undertow and some of them are going to be lost, and whether we put a constitutional amendment before the people and they adopt it that will say they are going to value agricultural land differently than they do that in other areas, it's not going to save the farmer. It is not the valuation of agricultural land that has produced the problem for agriculture. There are farming practices, to make it in farming now there are some things that cost so much that the farmers we say we're concerned about cannot afford it. Advanced technology, the utilization of chemicals can be so expensive at the inception that the farmers who might need it the most cannot even afford it. So the technological advances that might increase production for farmers and tie that into other programs that can help ensure a fair price are beyond the affordability of the farmers who need it. So there is always a discussion of farming...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...as though it is a unity, a unitary concept. There are different levels of farming. There are different sized farms. There are different levels of competency in farming. And we never talk about those things on the floor. We get into a misty-eyed, romanticized frame of mind and talk about farmers as folk heroes. That is not going to cut it. There are realities of the economy in this country that people in Washington are starting to face, more of them from urban areas and they're not going to continue making up 67 percent of the total farm income in a state and there are international considerations that have to be faced and are not being faced. So until we come to grips with that which is truly a problem in agriculture, we're going to widen the rural-urban split by giving the impression that the Legislature wants to give the farmer a leg-up without, at the same time, addressing the