

legislative session which is unprecedented in history. It will be difficult, extremely difficult, in my opinion, to sustain that level of expenditures unless we enhance the role of agriculture and make it more amenable to earned income from our basic resource. Past years have not been kind to agriculture, financially or otherwise. And many of our farmers and ranchers have seen fit to find their fortunes elsewhere. If, in fact, we are going to compete in the next century, we are going to have to do those things which are being done at Mead and which are being done well. Only this morning I heard where the Garst Seed Corn Company had sent 7.5 million pounds of seed corn to Russia. We all know what that means from the standpoint of competition. The eastern European nations, which have been struggling under Communism for many years, have now thrown off the yoke of Communism, ladies and gentlemen, because of any other idealistic attitude other than loss of opportunity to have a wholesome, healthy diet. The people in this country have enjoyed that for many years and we take it for granted. There are many nations in this world where it is a very serious project to find "your daily bread". We have been fortunate in this country. We are now emphasizing new areas of agriculture, sustainable agriculture is not one which really turns me on very much, one which may have some very important impact upon our lifestyle here in this state. And rightly and justifiably so at Mead they are pursuing that kind of agricultural enterprise. We have watched them develop systems out there for agriculture livestock production, grain production that have been copied throughout the world. It is of interest to know that it was the University of Nebraska, in cooperation with Fletcher Manufacturing at Columbus, which more than 35 years ago developed the minimum till system, which today has become the standard throughout the United States, maybe throughout the world. A very small plant in Columbus, Kenny Fletcher, working almost single-handedly with a couple of engineers and the University of Nebraska, developed a system a long time before we had an energy shortage that today may be a major factor in allowing Nebraska farmers and other farmers to survive because of high energy costs, just to mention one small aspect of the research that was done there. Mr. President and members, I know you've heard me talk about this before, I burdened you with it many times, I ask you to support this amendment this morning.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Discussion? Senator Scofield, followed by Senator Coordsen.