

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Hall. The next speaker is Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I would like to ask Senator Schrock a question, if he will promise not to take all my time in answering it.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Schrock, would you respond, please?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Schrock, since I made reference to you, and you were trying to signal something to me while I was speaking, on my time this time, without taking it all, could you either ask me the question or respond to what it was that I was saying that you would have liked to have had the opportunity to respond to.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Well, you make farming sound so lucrative, I know of a good farm for sale in Phelps County, and I would like to invite you to come out and maybe make a down payment on it, and take advantage of some of those federal subsidies. I would also remind you, Senator Chambers, that in 1980, the State of Nebraska had 65,000 farms, farmers. In 1990, we have 57,000 farmers, so we have lost 8,000 along the way that didn't find it so lucrative. So just a brief response, and thank you for your remarks.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Oh, thank you, Senator Schrock, and the reason I am glad he gave those statistics because I am the one, who on this floor more than anybody else, has constantly talked about the reduction in the number of farmers and have said that every year there will be fewer, and fewer, and fewer. That is what I have always said since I have been here because I studied what was happening. The so-called family farm is a thing of the past. It is gone, doesn't exist. It cannot exist, not only as a money-making or economic entity that is viable, but even from the standpoint of subsistence where using that alone, considering the cost of production, a person can operate it. If you want to run a farm and you are not in those upper regions, where a couple of our colleagues find themselves, you have got to have a job to keep a farm, and then you may not keep it forever. So, Senator Schrock, I have to turn down your offer unless you are going to sell me your farm. He said he would sell me mine, if I can get a loan from Senator Hefner. (Laughter) But he asked how much I need, and he might have it in his watch pocket. Senator Hefner, we will talk about that