

out of business, I can think of four within 20 miles of Ewing just last winter. The bankers have said there just isn't profit in what you are doing. It is time for you to quit. And the profit is not there because we are between a price squeeze. We don't have the ability to come to the marketplace, as producers of animals, and say we have to these many dollars so that we can have a little profit in our operation. We don't have that ability. Now the packers, on the other hand, they can do those things. They can pay the price they have to that they establish for these products, but if they aren't making money, they just raise the price of the thing that they sell. They can do that. That is part of the free enterprise system, they can do that. But the ranchers that I know who are taking this low price for their cattle, they stopped doing a lot of things in the price crunch. They stopped buying some of these products for their cattle. Takes them longer to produce them, costs them more money. They stopped buying new pickups or even used ones. They started driving these pickups until they got 150,000 miles on them, which might not be all that bad, but I don't think you see that too much in industry today. We are at a distinct disadvantage in rural Nebraska with the prices we receive for our products. This little bill, 106,...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR DIERKS: ...could provide us with just that little bit of incentive to stay in business for some of those young people. I don't think there is any question about the fact that we need all the advantages we can have to keep agriculture viable in this state. I read something the other day about 120...each farmer feeds 128 people a day. Those figures seem somewhat impressive, but they don't mean too much to the guy who is losing his farm or having to sell out because he wasn't given enough money for what he was selling, and he did an excellent job. He was trying very hard to be one of those people that provided enough food for 128 people in this nation. The trend, of course, is for larger farms and fewer people on them. It is decimating our countryside. Our small towns are becoming smaller. And you know what happened when we redistricted down here a few years ago. We lost some more rural districts.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Time. Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, comments will be brief again. I see there is an at-length