

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, having been an active member of the Ag Committee for a number of years and doing all I can to protect the integrity of the Ag Committee from being compromised in any way by being destroyed as a committee or merged with some other one, I feel that I've got to comment on this issue before us today. I'd like to ask somebody who is active in farming a question or two. Senator Schrock.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Senator Schrock, would you respond to a question, please?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Schrock, although I find it kind of charming the way Senator Jones drops "Senator" from people's names, I'm not going to just refer to you as Schrock, I'm going to call you Senator Schrock, although I may take up that practice. Under the federal farm bill that they're talking about, are they discussing a method of payment or subsidy to farmers which will not be tied to how much is produced, whether anything is produced, or the type of crops produced?

SENATOR SCHROCK: You're correct, Senator Chambers. The payments that farmers shall receive shall be based on the number of acres that that land has historically had in production. It gives the farmers freedom to plant what they want. For example, if I had a 100-acre farm and planted 50 acres to corn, I shall consider...continue to receive payment as though I was growing 50 acres of corn, even though I can grow 100 acres of corn or no corn. So...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Right. So, and I don't have to idle land either to get that payment.

SENATOR SCHROCK: That is correct. If you...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And if I want to plant one crop on everything I got, I can plant from post to post if I choose, right?

SENATOR SCHROCK: Correct.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Members of the Legislature, I support Senator Schrock's amendment. Senator Schrock, that's all I'm going to ask you. And I'll tell you why. No, I don't