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been a sense of panic that went out through the state when it was announced a short time ago that agricultural imports exceeded agricultural exports for the first time in our history. Well, I mean, you can be a free trader, but you better be cautious, and I am a free trader; but you better be cautious about how it works, how it affects the state economy as opposed to the national economy, and how fast, at what speed, we enter into these agreements...

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...that affect our economy because, by golly, this all comes back to Medicaid and what we can afford to do at the state government level because the revenues coming in from your one major industry and the related...ag-related industries is obviously crucial to our budget here. Change in bankruptcy laws: You know, the credit card companies really got a great deal, didn't they? Not only are we squeezing poor people in a number of different ways, but now we squeeze them through the bankruptcy laws. The biggest cause of bankruptcy is a catastrophic medical event, but now we're making it harder for people to clear their debts through bankruptcy and that, too, is going to add to the pressure that people have and add to our Medicaid payrolls. They're going to be forced to pay bankruptcy debts, whereas before they could have cleared those debts and started over again. Well,...

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Time.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...you may see that as right or wrong or whatever, but it's going to exacerbate this problem, too.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Senator Chambers, followed by Senator Erdman.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, friends all, I agree with everything that Senator Beutler stated. One of the things lacking in this and other legislatures is a broad or panoramic vision or view of what it is the society is about and the impact of the laws that we enact. The types of issues Senator Beutler is talking about are the kind which are generally ignored, not only by the general public but by legislators, teachers,