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LB 90A, 90, 312

out of the green copy of the bill as a targeted amount, then reduce the A bill to \$250,000. I had hoped that by reducing that...the amount to that low level, it would show that the bill creates a program which doesn't have enough money to have a realistic chance of success, and the body would kill it. The bill never surfaced to come before us again on its own. It became a part of a package, LB 90, which was to give a pittance to the rural people, I discover, to get them to agree to LB 312, which gave away the store, the bank, and some people's firstborn. I didn't learn all of this until the other day. A deal had been struck where this pittance was all that would be asked for. Were it left to me, I would leave this amendment, this offer, on the board, and see what the body felt like doing. But as has been my practice, when those whose welfare is at stake want to do something a certain way, and it has no impact on me or the constituency that I represent directly, I will grit my teeth and let them have it their own imprudent way. In a sense, it does impact my constituency, because I'm concerned about all of the people who are impoverished, who have no real voice. And once again, their interests have to be sacrificed to hold together a deal to give millions of dollars to the big business people. And Senator Landis made it crystal clear the other day that a part of the deal is that this program get no more than \$250,000, that if they want more money for it they've got to take some money from those other items in LB 90, the pittance, by comparison, given to the rural people, and they have to swallow it. They have to have somebody point the finger in their face--they're grown people--and say, you can do it, but you're going to have to do it my way or no way. You'll get nothing. And the rural people folded. They crumbled. And they will never get anything from this Legislature, because they will not stand. And it's not my responsibility to give backbone to people who have none. But since I was the one who crippled the program, I made it clear that since the body was going to do it, it ought to have an air of respectability about it. I don't like the program. But it's something the Legislature is going to do. You watched last night as 15 million more dollars were given to the big business people, and you rural people won't stand up for \$750,000? And I'm supposed to be your enemy. I want to help you. But I'm wrong to be paternalistic and say that I know better than you do what's best for the people you