

Well, we are in the 4th month of this year and the economists are still predicting a recession. I've asked several of my friends, who are in their older years, have they seen anything like this before? Their responses are almost uniformly NO. We need to pray, roll up our sleeves, and "get to work" in order to fix this situation.

I read the other day that the Treasury Department bailed out Bear Stearns Investment brokers. I'm troubled that the chairman of this company is alleged to have walked away with some \$40 million. The average American will not easily understand how we can bail out this large investment house and don't give our present beleaguered economy our immediate and undivided attention. I cannot convey with any more urgency than to continue to stress it in my newsletter. We are in a fix.

Our county permits for housing has decreased dramatically. We are expecting a hit to our total 2009 budget, which goes into effect on July 1st this year, and we are looking at alternate solutions to offset some of the expected shortfall. In closing, we are very hopeful that the economy will pick up in the future, but we are proceeding cautiously. With prayer and proper planning, we can get through this.

Commissioner Simmons