

March 2, 1984

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a fee. In the past all they were allowed to do was to charge interest on that credit card and then we had the terrible years of '81 and '82 with the economy falling apart, interest rates skyrocketing and we did adjust their interest rate usury limits up, up, up out of sight and have very high limits at this time on the interest rates you can charge. And at the same time about that time, it was brought to our attention that many of the credit card operations wanted to charge a fee and I remember and many of you who were here at the time surely can remember the fight we went through to try and allow for a credit card fee to be attached to credit card users. That was opposed vigorously by consumers and it was a hard fight and it was a fight that was eventually won by the credit card industry and it is a fight that I was on the side of the banks because I thought that some sort of fee...ha, Senator Nichol, that is the reasonable thing to do, that some fee for credit card operations was reasonable. Now it seems to me that we gave at that time some incentive to the credit card operations. We were told at the time if we didn't provide for a fee they were going to move out of the state. We provided the fee and we took the heat from the public because they didn't want to have it happen and that is what we ended up with. But what happens every time you do open up the door a little bit is those interests that want that door open a little more come back and ask for additional breaks. It seems to me that we have to keep in mind the public when we discuss this issue. I would like to attract that industry and I would like to try and provide for an incentive to have them come here but in fifteen minutes to debate whether or not that is a viable alternative and action is not something I really care to do. I know it is a priority bill of Senator Haberman's and we will have a chance to discuss it in the future but I think for our sake we ought to really consider whether or not this is a good policy for the State of Nebraska to totally eliminate any limitation on the fee that can be charged. \$20 at the time seemed awfully high. We were told that \$12 was really all they were looking at or \$15 or what have you, not \$20 and now we are eliminating that totally. And Senator DeCamp has some additional amendments that I'm not even sure what they do and I am willing to work with Senator DeCamp and I think we are all

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