

financial institution by another financial institution for the reason that so many of our financial institutions were in difficulty, that if I failed to take the actions now those financial institutions and the people that are served thereby could ultimately reap the whirlwind. As a result part of my own developmental process was that I began to reflect and reconsider my long-standing position regarding deconcentration of wealth and power in the hands of a few. For years, and years, and years I've been like Senator Hefner or Senator Barrett or others who have stood up against branch banking, a multibank holding company and the like. I have done that on a philosophical basis that called for the banking industry to essentially be deconcentrated. But in the last several years with the deregulation, of the banking and financial institutions industry, by the federal where one kind of an industry, i.e., savings and loan, or stock brokerage houses can begin to look more like another industry, i.e., the banking industry, with increased interstate banking, done through the back door by look-alike banks, i.e., City Bank, with states like South Dakota simply deciding they will deregulate banks entirely to allow a major credit card industry to develop there, it has become increasingly clear to me that continued regulation of the banking industry along an older late Nineteenth Century, early Twentieth Century, model will not suffice. So, I changed my own attitude and own thinking about the issue of concentration of wealth and power in the banking industry. Now on this very question you and I know one thing which is that we have a lot of troubled banks in our state, troubled primarily because of the faltering agricultural economy, and we know that to a certainty. That is something that you and I absolutely know. Now with that kind of knowledge it seems to me that we make the wise move in allowing a relatively liberal merger and acquisition law so that the troubled institutions will have a better chance of revitalization and success than they would currently have. When bankers tell me that an 11 percent limitation enhances the revival of the failing institutions, then I am more inclined to go with that 11 percent limitation than with a lower figure which is less likely to be successful. So, I do believe that Senator Hefner's amendment should be rejected, the bill should be returned to Final Reading, and we should read it and adopt it.

PRESIDENT: Senator Pappas.