

SENATOR DECAMP: Mr. President, let me give a brief explanation and then ask some indulgence from the body in terms of how I handle this. LB 653 originally was introduced with the cooperation of the Banking Department and the Banking Committee of the Nebraska Legislature. LB 653 as originally envisioned was a complete rewrite of the banking and financial institution laws of the State of Nebraska. Rather than attempt that this year since we have had a lot of preliminary work on it, the bill served the major purpose in educating us all, rather than attempt that, it is my intent and hope this morning that I can put into this bill with an amendment I will offer to the committee amendments a proposal that does 8 or 9 things which the Banking Committee, and I believe, well, let me put it this way, which I believe the Banking Committee and I know the Banking Department feels are critically important to get into place with the emergency clause for the benefit of the State of Nebraska. It is highly possible if we are not able to do this, in other words to get these 8 or 9 things into law, that some of the same problems or things which caused other institutions to have financial difficulties could recur or occur again. Whereas if these ideas are put into law, we feel it would make it possible that a dozen institutions or 12 institutions, 10, whatever, that might have to be closed could in fact be kept open. Now that is not to say there will not be bank closures because the times are tough and there are some problems out there, but there is no use having twice or three times as many as need be if we can prevent it. And so what I am going to offer then are the amendments to the committee amendments, well, they are amendments to the bill, so we might as well quickly take up the committee amendments and I would ask you to reject the committee amendments or approve them, whichever your choice is, because the amendment I want to offer, my own amendment, then strips all that out anyway. So with that said...

PRESIDENT: Senator Haberman, do you wish recognition on the matter? We are discussing the committee amendments and Senator DeCamp, I think, would like to have them rejected. Very well. Senator Carsten.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I would like to ask Senator DeCamp a question if I may.

SENATOR DECAMP: Yes, sir.