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(Begin Belt #21)

He just happened to see that word and it give him a thought and it would have give me the same thought had I been in the same position he is. These banks my friends are necessary and no town is any better than its banking structure. And we talk about branch banks. In my country for example we have the ABOT people who have as I recall about 16 branch banks. Even though the law says you can't have them and how do they get them? The only difference is do you want to put up additional capital for each individual bank and then if you've got the influence in the front office, depending who the Governor is and the banking commissioner, most of the time they can get themselves a bank charter but an outsider, one who doesn't have the background and the standing in the area to lend money, brother, he's a lost ball in the high weeds. Now this is no place to let these banks solve their own problem because they can't solve them, they are split right down the middle. Now this is an equitable bill, what does it do? Let's talk about branch banking, the metropolitan banks in Lincoln and Omaha are gradually buying bank after bank in the first class cities. When those who own the stock die because of the tax and other things were not apparent and because of the lucrative price they can get, they sell the bank. Now that's all right for those who are able to buy it. Now I don't know very many big, small banks who could exist if they have customers of the type who need more money than the capital structure of that little bank can loan. Where do they go? They've got to go to the Omaha National, the U.S. National, the First National, and they lay it off. It isn't that the big bank needs the little bank, it's the little banks need the big banks and if I were the big banks, I'd tell the little banks to go where probably they wouldn't want to go. It's true, they have their deposits in the metropolitan area but they can get along without them for heavens sake, they are giving gimmicks and everything else in order to get money. They're doing the things, for example, if you've got \$100,000 they give you 7% if you leave it there for a certain period of time, but if you've got \$1,000 they've got that thing so rigged in the Federal Reserve you take about 4%. They want to be helpful in equity only in the area in which they have the income, the guy that's got the \$100,000. Now what does this bill do and it only does one thing. You can never have branch banking until this body authorizes it. You can get it by indirection as they are now doing and as they've done for years and years. All this bill says, you can have two. If you've got one now which is within 2600 feet of the home bank, the main bank, you can have another one anywhere within the incorporated limits. Now what's wrong with that? What's wrong with that? You're not going to starve anybody, anybody knows that the most difficult thing in the world is to change banks. You only do that if they throw you out and by the time you got to the next bank they've got the other bank on the phone and telling you why you shouldn't get a loan. These are non-competitive in every area except this area. Now I would hope that you would not kill this bill. This is the time to settle this thing because in every area, almost every first class city in the primary, in the metropolitan, they're having shopping centers and things of an immense size in which they want to give service to those people who want their service. These auxiliary banks you can't do anything except to leave your money there and to make change. That's all they do, that's what they are limited to. This is a campaign of fear, of fear, in order to maintain the advantage they now have and if I were Senator Murphy and I had an unknown share of a small bank I'd be just like he is in the committee and on this floor. Many times I have a conflict of interests and I always tell this body what it is. And every man assumes that obligation to do it. Then you make up your own mind whether you want to go with his ideas or whether you don't. Nobody's been any more adamant many times against metropolitan banks than I have.