

(Start of Belt #7)

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, as I said before I rise to oppose the motion to delay action on the bill. I do so reluctantly because I know that Senator Lewis is sincere when he makes that motion and he makes it out of concern for the fact that there is a difference of opinion here which apparently cannot be resolved readily, but he does not have the information that I have and that is that I have made many honest attempts as has the proponents of this bill to secure a compromise. So long as the opponents of the bill felt that they were in a position to kill the bill, they will not compromise. They will accept no quarter and they will not do so next January 10th. If the opponents of the bill here today will tell me or would tell me that on January 10th they would basically accept the bill which is before us, then I would look at it differently but they will not do so. They are not going to. They haven't done so in the past. January the 10th, we will again begin the same old battle and we will have to fight the same war. I find it difficult to accept the idea that this body does not have the knowledge, the experience, or the wisdom to solve this problem. We are charged with the responsibility. It is our responsibility. We solved many problems much more complex than this. I see no reason why we should run from a few bankers. I stood on this floor a year ago and opposed the medical profession and I told them...I said at that time, frankly, I didn't care what the doctors thought. It was time we did what the people wanted. We did it. The doctors bought it. They lived with it. I think that it is time that we did on this bill what the people demand. We have a mobile society that moves on wheels. We spent a considerable amount of time yesterday debating LB 45 that had to do with traffic safety and rules of the road. I don't mean to nitpick but I want to point out that to cause the public to travel additional amount of miles across town, whether it is Columbus, Nebraska or Omaha, Nebraska, to perform a banking service is an unnecessary risk and unnecessary travel, unnecessary expense. There isn't any reason why we should make the public take their business to a certain physical plant just because two hundred and some bankers, most of whom can park a dozen automobiles in front of their facility any day of the week, any hour of the day, insist that they don't want the bill. This has no more bear...this has no influence upon this bill if it were passed into law. It would have very little influence upon most of the people who oppose the bill. It might make them better bankers and that would be to the benefit of the public. I have studied carefully the persons who voted to kill the bill yesterday, and I am disappointed, deeply, that so many of the people who have voted to kill this bill come from rural areas and the rural areas have been sadly neglected by the banking fraternity for a long, long while. Now, the banks instead of fighting each other should recognize their responsibility to the community and to the state and to the public and fulfill that need. The reasons that we have as a savings and loan institution in the state of Nebraska today is because the banks refuse to meet the needs of the homeowners and, therefore, the savings and loan institutions came into being and they have provided that service and I call attention to the fact that the savings and loan can branch freely and frequently do so, at their wish, to the detriment of the banks because the banks in many of our small rural communities did not meet the needs of farmers for short term credit. The Production Credit Associations came into being and today loan several hundred millions of dollars in the state of Nebraska because the banks in the rural areas did not meet the needs of the farmer. Insofar as real estate loans were concerned, the Federal Land Bank came into being and those institutions today loan