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for the Johnson amendment, and I think I can paraphrase what they said in all candor and honesty, and that is essentially that they really would prefer 12 1/2 but 12 percent would take care of their concerns. It would not cause anybody to not be able to buy a home. I think the 12 1/2 percent is excessive. Now it's important and I realize that on Select File an amendment to an amendment does require 25 votes. I didn't do this because I was stupid. I did it because I want this motion to come up first. I think the Johnson amendment is one that has some degree of reasonableness in it. However, I cannot support the amendment, nor can I support the bill with 12 1/2 percent, because I believe 12 1/2 percent to be excessive. When I first came down here I felt that higher interest rates were against consumers. It took me only a couple of days to learn that's not the case. If you don't have interest rates at a certain level, you dry up the money and you can't take care of the consumer. So I certainly think that a higher percentage of interest is in order, but I would contend that 12 1/2 percent is excessive. Now I realize the time is late. It's after 5:00. Those of us who are hungry, we want to go home, we want to go out and relax, but I would suggest this is an important issue. I would suggest that 12 1/2 percent is excessive and I would suggest that 12 percent will do the job for which the bill was intended. It will free up that money to provide for mortgage, for home loans. It will provide for money for building of new construction of new homes. It will do exactly what is intended. They don't need any more and I would urge the adoption of the amendment to the Johnson amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is on the Simon amendment first. Senator Koch, do you wish to speak to the Simon amendment? The question has been called for. Do I see five hands? The question is, shall debate cease? All those in favor vote aye, opposed no. The motion is cease debate. Record.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 4 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Debate is ceased. Senator Simon, do you want to close on your amendment?

SENATOR SIMON: Mr. President and members of the body, there seems to be some confusion on what the prime interest rate... now Senator DeCamp, let me ask you, you're certainly very knowledgeable in this area as Chairman of the Banking Committee. What is the prime interest rate right now?