

SENATOR DE CAMP: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, the bill you have before you is the branch banking bill. As Chairman of the committee I will give a brief explanation of the bill. It is relatively simple. As Chairman of the Banking Committee last year I was instrumental in getting this bill introduced against what I felt at the time, what I feel today, were extremely difficult odds. Major opposition from every direction, but we introduced the bill. Enough members of the committee finally signed the bill to at least have it introduced and have it discussed. My reasoning at that time was simply this. The branch banking concept needed a public hearing and public discussion in the State of Nebraska, in the committee and on the floor of the Legislature. The bill is here today for that public discussion. The questions I think you should ask yourself, very simply are these. Who needs branch banking? Who wants branch banking and that is it and what are the benefits? To the best of my knowledge there are two banks and I think you know who they are. Four years ago we passed what we called a two facility bill and with some four hundred fifty banks in the state we currently at this time have only one hundred and four detached facilities, even though that law authorized at that time nine hundred and ten. That means, I think, that we have not even come close to using the current allowances under the law. I would point out to you that in 1978 in what I think was an attempt to stop any branching and convince me and others that we should not even introduce the legislation, the Nebraska bankers took a poll on the subject. That poll which you have all had copies of showed statewide and the question was, a third detached facility within city limits. That is the bill before you, branch banking. Forty-seven banks supported it, some of whom are now opposing it. Eighty-eight were neutral. Two hundred and forty-three banks opposed it and three hundred and seventy-eight were the banks responding. One of the banks which I understand is supporting it today, I think it is the First National of Omaha, Mr. Giltner, sent a letter in which he said and I will read to you the essence of the letter. It is contained in the last paragraph. It was to Senator Schmit, at the time he was trying to convince Senator Schmit of the evils of branch banking. The man's name is Phil Giltner. I think he is secretary of the Nebraska Independent Bankers. "We want banks and the deposits of the people of this state to remain free of the controls and restraints and concentration of power that emanates from branch banking." I will give you copies of the letter should you choose. I just talked to James Moylan, the representative of, the lobbyist for the independents. I had some confusion as to what their exact position was. He said, "Kill, kill, kill, kill. We have not changed our position." I received in the mail