

yesterday and I assure you, some of you others did, petitions from little banks throughout the state, hundreds of people signing them. Lois Kay Mosier, Clearwater, Nebraska, Renee Blunt, Clearwater, Joan Spangler, Ewing, etc., etc. The petition is very simple. It is from the Nebraska bankers, has Phil Giltner's name on it, the secretary of that association. The undersigned customers of blank bank of blank Nebraska, hereby petition the members of the Nebraska Legislature to preserve our community unit banking system and urge such legislators to oppose any legislation that would permit further branch banking or multibank holding company expansion within Nebraska. I am going to keep this fairly short, fairly simple, fairly brief. Everybody knows in this body during the last three or four years that if there has ever been bills where you have received pressure and I mean pressure, it is the issue of structural change in banking. As Chairman of the committee and the one trying to bring these ideas out I have received incredible pressure. I personally believe that structural change in the State of Nebraska is necessary in some form and I really believe if the bankers on both sides of multibank branching and the independents would sit down at a table and quit trying to beat each others heads in and try to work out something they could work out something everybody could live with. Apparently they have decided not to do that this year. I see no reason, therefore, to implement a branching system to benefit one or two banks and punish some others. Let them be forced by a kill of this bill to sit down and whether it is in the next week, the next month, the next year, to work out a solution to their problems and the best way you legislators as individuals can tell them, go back and solve your problems and quit putting the pressure on us, one day this way and one day another. The best way you can tell them is to kill the bill and say we are serious this time. We are running things, bankers, not you guys. Kill the damn bill.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Reutzel.

SENATOR REUTZEL: A question of Senator DeCamp. Senator, you mentioned four hundred and five banks and a hundred and four facilities, is that correct?

SENATOR DE CAMP: Yes.

SENATOR REUTZEL: The only question I have is it might be somewhat misleading if we have four hundred and five banks across the state like this which has a large rural population. We have a small town of Ewing or Burwell or someplace...