

I think it does do precisely what he wants it to do and maybe it is truth time just for a little bit, a little additional information you might all should know. I have received, and I think I can disclose these calls from the federal authorities who have to ultimately approve bank charters after the state has taken action and they made it very clear that they wanted to know what was really happening on LB 491 and the reason they explained that they needed to know was that they had "received repeated quantities of information from numerous sources that LB 491 was absolutely guaranteed and greased and set to pass, and if that were the case, then, of course, charters and applications now pending might be a moot point because the existing banks, let's say First National of Lincoln for an example, would have an application and get the new branch rather than these charters." Well, I don't know that 491 is at this point greased. It may or may not pass. It may or may not pass in the present form, but in any case, applications that have been sitting there month after month after month should not have to rise or fall on whether this bill passes and whether, let's say, First National or some other major bank in Lincoln got the branch or location or a new bank in an area where there is already a group of new businessmen, new people ready, willing and able to put up capital, competition in a new bank. If this amendment were to be put on now, irrespective of what ultimately happens to the bill, I think it would be a clear declaration to the Nebraska State Banking Department and to the federal authorities that there is no basis anymore for holding up on applications, that they should go ahead, that the fate of 491 is an independent subject and that those people waiting for their applications should not be held hostage or prisoner to 491. So I support the amendment and we will discuss the bill itself later. The amendment is good.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Murphy, do you wish to speak to the Fowler amendment?

SENATOR MURPHY: Just very briefly. It is a pleasure to be able to agree with Senator Fowler. I don't believe he is accomplishing anything that the Department wouldn't currently use as a criteria in granting either a new facility or a new charter, but if it is his desire to put it in expressed language, fine, but by the same token, I would not refute what Senator Dworak said but these are the facts upon which the Department of Banking must ultimately make its decision. But to Senator DeCamp I would say, let's don't kid ourselves and talk about the federal because the