

bit of a revolution with this deregulation of this, deregulation of that, the farm economy. I think we have to accommodate and adapt to it. What the bill would do, very simply, after the various amendments we want to put on were put on, what it would do would simply, would simply ultimately allow banks in the state to merge. That is about all it would do. But that is an important thing because it means you can strengthen or take over a bank before it is failed rather than after it is failed. That is the essence of this proposal. I would like to adopt the committee amendments. Then I guess we can get into the other amendments. The other amendments I'm going to offer have to do simply with clearing up some of the questions about whether you can have unlimited branches and new branches in the city. I want to make it abundantly clear, and the amendments do it, Bill Brandt from the NBA wrote most of the amendments I think, makes it abundantly clear that what you are talking about is no new banks, unless somebody wants to go out and start their own new bank. But basically it is simply a consolidation system for existing banks, if they want to do it. The committee amendment itself, which is the first thing we would take up, would reduce the percent that any one institution could have of the assets of the state from 20 percent, which by the way is the federal number, that is where the number came from, to 14 percent. I guess I think 14 percent is a reasonable number. For those who say, well, gosh, FirstTier is going to get enormous and take over the world, I would point out that Commercial Federal, one existing institution in the state which isn't limited by all the things that we keep limiting others, Commercial Federal is already over the 9 percent limit that does exist in law now. So, as I say, I think 14 percent is a reasonable figure and I would urge you to adopt that amendment. Then I would like to offer the other amendments from the NBA that eliminates any branches and clears up that question. I move the adoption of the committee amendments.

SPEAKER NICHOL: We're now talking about the committee amendment. I have three lights on. Senator Beutler, you were first. Did you wish to talk about the percentage, the committee amendment?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Yes.

SPEAKER NICHOL: All right, Senator Beutler.