

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay, one more question, John, if I may. Assuming again that interstate banking is coming at some point down the line here, is it fair to assume that within a reasonable period of time after it comes that whatever bank deposit limitation law we have, and let me ask you this preliminarily, is it fair to assume that that deposit limitation law will survive any federal mandates with regard to allowing interstate banking? I mean, the state will still be allowed to say what percentage of its deposits can be held by one bank. Am I correct in assuming that?

SENATOR DECAMP: Yes. We are in the area of speculation. My speculation is based upon studying the history of this thing, that the feds would allow limitations that the states imposed. Remember the feds already have their own limitation which is where the bill's number came from, that is 20 percent. That is what the federal limitation is now.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. But it is a reasonable assumption, in your opinion, that they will probably allow us to regulate in that area?

SPEAKER NICHOL: Half a minute.

SENATOR DECAMP: I think that they'd allow you to regulate up to the 20. You follow what I'm saying?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Yes, within their guidelines, so to speak. Okay, given that assumption then, is it reasonable to assume that whatever we put that deposit limitation at, that is probably basically going to decide how many large banks dominate this state. In other words if, at the time interstate banking comes, it happens to be 20 percent here in Nebraska, say we change it again a couple of times down the line, do you think it is reasonable to assume that by the Twenty-First Century, or some time in the... a decade or so after interstate banking comes that we will then be down to four or five large banks in the State of Nebraska? Then the rest of the question, John, just so it's all in front of you, if we leave that deposit limitation at ten, does that mean then instead of four or five large banks we have seven, or eight, or nine large banks, not quite so large, but nonetheless large banks competing against each other? I'm trying to look at what this limitation means in the long-run making some of the assumptions that we've talked about.