

is that 14 is still too large. It seems to me that the figure of 12 percent reduces further in the direction it ought to be, but at the same time still allows some flexibility to these larger financial institutions that do want to grow and prosper and develop in this state, allow a little bit more flexibility than we now have. I think a 12 percent figure is a reasonable compromise. As I understand it, a number of people have talked about that as a figure that they could live with. It does reduce, by a couple percent more, the reduction that the committee amendments have. I think at this time, dealing with the large amount of figures, and I think Senator DeCamp is going to share those with us, that 12 percent may be the figure we can live with at this point with the committee amendments. So my motion is to go from 14 to 12 and amend the committee amendments that have reduced it from the 20 percent figure that the bill originally had.

SPEAKER NICHOL: I have several lights on, but they were on prior to the amendment to the amendment. I'd like to know which one of you would like to speak to the Wesley amendment. If I could see your hands please. Senator DeCamp. Go ahead, Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DECAMP: Mr. President, if this were I suppose the days of old on these banking bills, I would get up and give a vigorous battle and strong arguments and tell you why this is wrong and why 14 is good and all that. However, this is not the days of old. I do want to get some legislation passed. My reasons are I think quite different than the reasons of old. In the days of old I did want to change the banking structure, and we did do it. In the days of new I am concerned about the whole financial picture of this state. I want to make sure that we have a backup system, something a little more sophisticated than "the failed bank bill." Why? Because the failed bank bill says, okay, now you are dead, here is the burial process. I want banks remaining in communities, if at all possible, before they are destroyed, before the FDIC comes in. I think this bill, if we can get her passed, will help a lot. It is not going to cure all the ills because there are some tough ills coming, believe me, but it will do a lot. For that reason, I think the 12 percent is fine. I'll go with it. I know some of the bankers listening to me are thinking, well, why did he do that, why didn't he fight? Well, 12 percent allows FirstTier and the other institutions, but let's be