

SENATOR DECAMP: Mr. President, I'm always baffled on these banking bills because my conservative, free-enterprise, entrepreneurial friends, like Senator Hefner, come out of the woodwork and keep talking about how big is bad and on, and on, and on. I guess I wonder at the possibility of maybe adopting this philosophy in every place, this philosophy he wants on banking and certain other areas, the Initiative 300. Why don't we outlaw this, outlaw that, state regulate this, state mandate that? That is what has destroyed so many other countries because they keep trying to be so protectionist, and guarantee that nobody can fail, that they guarantee that nobody can survive. I would hope that Senator Hefner would remain as consistent in his philosophy, the balance of this year, on all the other legislation that comes parading across this floor for protectionist, state regulated, state mandated, anticompetitive things. I suggested one of the main purposes of the bill, and I made no secret about it, is to make sure that FirstTier can buy some institutions or merge with some institutions. His amendment is designed to do one thing, to prevent that very thing. Don't cry about the farm problems. Don't cry about your economy up there when you won't do anything to take care of it. The loudest racket made on this bill, and on every banking bill that is before the Legislature over the last years, has come from one Vince Rossiter, leading light of the independents. What is Vince Rossiter doing for the Nebraska farmer? What is he doing for the agricultural economy? Let me tell you what he's doing because he had to tell it before the committee the other day. He's 34 percent loaned up and says that is way too high because only a damn fool gives money to farmers up there. He wants to get it down to 29 or 30 percent. That is your good country banker that is saving your community up around Verdigre and the places. Maybe they need a little legitimate competition, Senator Hefner. Maybe they need some real banking and some real financing for the communities. That one banker had the ability to take over everybody over at the Verdigre system, at the Verdigre bank, and refinance them. But he didn't want to put his money in agriculture even though it all came from agriculture, even though that is where the millions for a lot of these bankers came from, they don't want to return it to the communities. Where is his money that he took out of the community? It is in treasury bills earning him lots of interest and he is not the only one doing it. I think that is as close to being