

bank is closed, for all practical purposes, the stock of that bank is worthless. You say that everybody is sitting out there like some kind of hens, or whatever, waiting to pounce and wanting all the banks to close and then they want to leap in and buy them up cheap. Senator Hefner, with all due respect, that's as close to utter nonsense as anything that has been spouted on this floor. What they do want to do in most cases is protect their own stock loan, first of all, and then protect the integrity of the whole financial industry by preventing as many bank failures as they can and then to have a strong portfolio. This legislation, this legislation, for all practical purposes, would simply do one additional thing. It would allow and encourage action before bank failures rather than after. Why? Because now instead of starting a new bank in a community, instead of putting all new capital, brick and mortar, there is a program where a bank can simply be merged with a part of, without additional brick and mortar, additional capital invested, a part of a larger institution. FirstTier has been mentioned repeatedly and properly they should be. FirstTier, as I recall, and maybe I'm saying things out of school here, was pushing interstate banking with the NBA group. However, they ultimately went along with the Nebraska Bankers Association position. That's what actually happened. Interstate banking, I repeat, I believe it is inevitable, but I doubt that that in and of itself is going to really dramatically change the world here. It is just going to adapt us to the real financial world. Money does cross state lines. If you decide that you can't accept 11 percent, then I think by that same action you're saying we don't want to really do anything about the financial picture and if that is the decision, the proper thing is to kill the bill and maybe that is the intent. But then don't cry and say we have to go to Uncle Sugar all the time in Washington for all our farm problems for this, for that and so on. Don't talk free enterprise on one breath and then want every protectionist measure on the other. I urge you to adopt a reasonable limit. I think 11 percent is maybe below or marginally reasonable. Maybe it is a reasonable compromise between the ten and twelve. I thought twelve was going way down. Certainly eleven allows a little room for expansion. I think you should do that.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Schmit, then Senator Hefner.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members of the