

at 8 percent. Do you know what their CDs are selling for today? About 8 percent. They've got a guaranteed profit on all the money that they can't peddle to some poor damn farmer or businessman, plus the extra money that they need to operate with can still be reinvested at the cost of a present CD. Now I don't want to sound anti-banker because I've been called a shill for the bankers on this floor many times. What I am saying is that the knife cuts both ways, ladies and gentlemen, it cuts both ways. The banking industry, by virtue of the huge deficit, has a guaranteed market for all the money they've got. Most of the rest of us are not in that kind of a position. I'd like to suggest that unless something happens, a year and a half from now maybe Senator Hannibal's amendment will seem like a good idea, but by what stroke of clairvoyance or wisdom did Mr. Volcker and Jimmy Carter in October of 1979 decide that we ought to deregulate the money supply? Was all the wisdom of the combined United States collected in those two brains? I think not. I think that it is time for the combined legislators of this state to send a message that we cannot live with these kind of interest rates. It also conveys another message. It conveys the message that the federal budget must be balanced...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...and it must be balanced by whatever means necessary. I want to suggest one more thing. It has been said that the only thing that keeps interest rates high is the deficit. Well, ladies and gentlemen, Senator Hall will be as old as I am before that deficit comes down and before the budget is balanced and if you wait that long for interest rates to come down there will not be a farmer or businessman left in the State of Nebraska or the entire Middle West. I would support Senator Hannibal's amendment. I think it is a reasonable approach. I think it is unfortunately...unfortunately it does not immediately address the problem, but it does something. We have at least taken one small step down the road that we must take if we are to bring some kind of sanity back to interest rates. Mr. President, I ask for the support of the amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Sieck, do you wish to speak on the amendment?