

particularly the Middle East, particularly Europe, you will find that one of the very destructive things they have done to their economies is keep adding more and more and more holidays, and holidays, the direct cost Senator Hefner said in Nebraska would be a million dollars, that is only a very small part of the cost. Holidays, when you get them to excess become a very heavy burden on the economy and I think we have got them there in Nebraska, too many holidays, too heavy a burden on the economy. So what am I doing with this proposal? This proposal is oriented and designed to make it possible for a financial institution to choose from an economic standpoint whether they are going to stay open or closed on Martin Luther King day and do so without liability or risk. That is what passage of the bill that I am proposing would do. And like the bankers stated in their letter, they don't take a position one way or the other on whether Martin Luther King day should be a holiday. It's just that they don't want to have economic punishment should they decide to stay closed, if that makes economic sense to them on that day, or should they decide to stay open and without making a judgment on the merits of the federal government's action on Martin Luther King day, at least since they have taken that action we have to adapt to it at the state level and protect ourselves. So that is what it does. If you want to use the phrase and I think it is a fair phrase, it is an economic business...probusiness bill to make sure the financial institutions of the country are not punished as a result of the federal government instituting Martin Luther King day. Ah, yes, shaking the head at the old probusiness. We are going to get it a lot this session.

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR DEKAMP: Okay, why not do this later or why didn't it occur in the special session? Very simply, the issue was up in the air because of an Attorney General's Opinion. When we finally got it cleared up and it became obvious that unless we do this, unless we make this correction, the banks are going to be hanging out from a liability standpoint, special sessions were over and we were ready for the new session, and, of course, January 20th is the deadline. So I would urge you and ask you to get this bill brought up and pass it with a very limited portion of the bill dealing with the Martin Luther King holiday with respect to banks.