

number of banks that pay no state tax, but the number is significant, it is significant that pay no state tax. With respect to those that do pay a state tax the amount that they pay is significant...is insignificant per bank. In fact, some of the tax stories are awful stories of banks making large amounts of money, in the millions of dollars, net profit, that is after all the expenses have been paid, and still paying nothing to the State of Nebraska. You see I am of the opinion, frankly, that the State of Nebraska today is providing more support to the banking community for its endeavors than the banking community is providing to the state as a member of society. I think we provide more services, for example, in the court context alone, in simply making our courts available to banks to foreclose their mortgages than banks are paying back in the way of state taxes to cover the operation of the courts. That is how bad the situation is. It is not as though the situation was made up out of whole cloth. Banks simply are not paying taxes. I have a note here from one of our senators saying 313 of 460 banks paid no state taxes this year. Okay? So all we are trying to do, with LB 717, is simply have the banks...have more of the banks pay some taxes. It is not even an enormous amount. Senator DeCamp says well because the issue was hot, because emotions are high, because there are some hostilities and belligerencies, bracket it, suspend hostilities, run up the white flag of truce. There comes, sometimes, when you simply duke it out. I'm prepared to duke it out, win, lose or draw. That is what I'm elected to do, that is why I'm down here. I oppose bracketing.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Miller. The motion is to bracket the bill.

SENATOR MILLER: Mr. President and members, I'm...

PRESIDENT: May we have order, please. (Gavel.) Senator Miller.

SENATOR MILLER: Members, I'm opposed to this bracket. If you'd analyze what has happened in any question, in any law here, especially I recognize this as a new senator, if you don't understand the issue you talk to the lobbyists. I think they provide a real service. They explain the issue. But on this issue where have you gotten the other side of the information? You can go to the Revenue Department, but it's not really their job to convince me as to which way is