

SENATOR KREMER: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, I would like to repeat, first of all, the opening statement made by Senator Frank Lewis that I, too, wish it was as easy for me to take a position on all bills as it is to take a position on this bill, only, he is on the wrong side of the fence. It is easy for me to take this position. I oppose this bill. I have consistently through the years. This same proposal has been before us time after time and it is back again. In my particular legislative district, I think I can speak with perfect assurance that everyone that has banking needs is being taken care of satisfactorily and we have no problems. So we will go back to Senator Warner's famous statement that if something is working don't fix it. I really believe, and I think I can back up what I am saying that I believe that the interest rates to those of us that borrow money will go up should this bill pass. The banks in my district have consistently stayed below the usury rate. Maybe it is competition. I think it is a determination on my banker's part to keep the interest rates as low as possible. Furthermore, when I walk into a bank, I like to be called by name and whether my needs are not satisfied depending on whether I fit in this slot or that slot or some other slot. The independent bankers well know their customers. They treat them not only as a customer but as a friend. They know them. I am not sure this will happen if we go to a multibanking system. I don't have a lot more to say, only to say this, that the banking system we now have is working. It is working well. The interest rates are at the lowest level possible because of competition and also because of a determination to be fair and honest with the banking needs of the constituents in my country. I oppose this bill in every way, shape or form. I think we ought to defeat it like we have year after year. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Hefner, then Senator Lamb, then Senator Chambers. Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President, members of the body, I rise to oppose the amendments of LB 69. I believe that the banking industry is doing a good job in Nebraska and so I ask this body, why should we change, and I realize sometimes we do need to accept the challenge of change, but in this particular instance, I do not believe it would be wise for us to do this. I have not received one telephone call or one letter from the farmers, from the businessmen, from the manufacturers or from individuals wanting a change such as this. They say that our banking industry is good. It is healthy. It is serving the needs of the people in Nebraska and I think we must remember that our state, Nebraska,