

would in fact do much harm to our current branching that is already taking place in so far as I can tell in Lincoln I know of and elsewhere as well. This is an absolutely essential amendment for me to support the bill because of the concerns I have had expressed by certain individuals in the City of Lincoln. This amendment has the support of the Bankers Association and a number of other individuals concerned with this legislation. There is no opposition that I know of, and essentially the change is this, it would allow the branches to be within three miles, one of the branches within three miles instead of having to be within five thousand feet. It is a simple change that can make a big difference in so far as the impact of this bill and the good it can do for the state. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is on the Wesely amendment to LB 491 as found on page 439 of the Journal. Senator Dworak, your light is on. Do you wish to speak to the Wesely amendment? Senator Dworak. Senator Dworak, your light is on. Do you wish to speak to the Wesely amendment? Senator Schmit, your light is on. Do you wish to speak to the Wesely amendment? Senator DeCamp, your light is on. Do you wish to speak to the Wesely amendment?

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I am going to oppose the Wesely amendment and I would like to ask Senator Wesely a few questions but first I would like to make a comment. As you know, I have taken the posture that this is the year the banking industry should act mature and big bankers in big banks should act like big bankers and they should sit down and resolve their multitude of big and little and petty disagreements on the subject of structure change. I assure you I have had contact with them repeatedly on all sides. I assure you there is a middle ground. I assure you that that middle ground would benefit the state tremendously from a consumer standpoint but that middle ground has not been reached at this point simply because one side believes they can tailor or write legislation strictly for themselves and to hurt the other person, the other bank, in other words, not competitive legislation. As an example, I would give you some additional information on the amendment you just adopted. To those that think that amendment did nothing, I might submit to you that a bill doing precisely the opposite was submitted to the Banking Committee for the very specific purpose, I believe, of giving excuse or justification for delay on pending applications so that existing big banks would be the only game in town when