

May 13, 1981

LB 376

SENATOR DeCAMP: I'll withdraw it, yes.

PRESIDENT: ...withdraw the consideration of the amendment. Were there any further amendments ahead of...?

CLERK: No, Mr. President, the next amendment I have is offered by Senator Barrett and that is found on page 1707.

PRESIDENT: All right, the Chair recognizes Senator Barrett.

SENATOR BARRETT: Thank you, Mr. President, and thank you, Senator DeCamp. The essence of my amendment, of course, is to strike sections 2 and 3 of LB 376 as now introduced. My position on multibank holding company which is essentially sections 2 and 3 has been consistent over the years. I have traditionally opposed this type of banking legislation. I oppose it today and I presumably will be opposing it in the years ahead because it rears its ugly head year after year. If we don't dispose of it today, one way or the other, if we don't vote it down it will be back, I can assure you. I don't know how many times this issue has been before this body in the last six, seven, eight years, perhaps every year, I don't know. I recall that in 1978 it was LB 385. It didn't move. In 1979 it was LB 69. Nothing happened there. Last year, of course, you remember it was LB 899. Never got off General File. The same issue year after year to the point where I know, I have been told that there are many members of this body that are virtually sick and tired of the issue and they wish it would go away, and frankly so do I. Here we go again debating an issue which has been before us, has not moved, has gone down the tube, or whatever. You remember last year that this body threw down the gauntlet to the bankers, as Senator Beutler likes to say, we drew a line in the sand. We told the bankers to go home and get their house in order. We told them to come back with a unified position to speak to us with one voice about the banking structure matter. And you know, they did. They formed a Task Force, a representation, a cross section of all the bankers in this state. They spent considerable time, effort and money and energy in studying the entire structure picture. By a majority vote that Task Force said, we don't want multibank holding company legislation. And they are not resting there, that Task Force referred the results to the Executive Committee of the Nebraska Bankers Association and that Executive Committee came up with the same identical position by a majority vote, we don't