

The Federal Reserve has done several studies. That is what they show. I kind of half way believe they might be right. As I say, I urge you to adopt the amendment and advance the bill and that will give the bankers a chance to get together in the next couple of days and see if there is any final common ground. I would hope that on this, the most intense lobbied issue of all, and my good friend Senator Wiitala has decided to do a masters thesis after good old Vince Rossiter (phonetic), who gets a little carried away sometimes, called him up and asked him if he had a bulletproof vest, and, of course, it has gone on like that for years on both sides of the issue. You know how intense it can get and it hurts. It hurts, some of the pressure that both sides put on you. I would like to get that hurt gone and get on to water next year and some other things and get this one gone and I think this is the way to do it. There is enough support for it now. If you talk in terms of assets of banks, you are talking about seventy-five percent of the total assets of the state now support the proposition, when, in fact, before what, one or two percent. So I urge you to adopt the amendment.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President, and members of the Legislature, I rise in support of the DeCamp amendment and I believe it is a reasonable amendment. It is one which has been discussed and debated hour after hour after hour but I would suggest that it is not as controversial as some people would think it might be. I first became interested in the banking issue many years ago on this floor. I think at the time there were probably five or six of us who are now members of this body who were around. I remember how intensely Nebraska Bankers Association opposed the expansion of the bank structure from one to two facilities, two teller facilities, only partial service. At that time it was deemed to be the end of banking, the end of independent banking, the end of a strong unit structure system if that bill became law. The facts were that the bill became law and banking did not suffer from it. The banking industry in fact benefited but the people who really benefited were the customers, the people who were customers of the banks and the people who needed to rely upon the bank for service. Later years other structure changes were offered, some accepted and some rejected, but consistently the trend has been toward an attempt, as Senator Landis pointed out this morning, to accommodate the structure of banking to the structure of business. Twenty-five years ago the average agricultural loan in the State of Nebraska was about \$12,500. Today it would range probably ten to fifteen times that. The average