

May 13, 1981

LB 376

got now is a multibank bill, a very limited one, quite frankly, and some structure change in the area of branching, citywide branching. I would urge adoption to Select File and I am going to be very frank with everybody, suburban bankers, ONB, U.S., First National of Lincoln, everybody, should it happen to advance, I am going to make sure that no matter who you are we sit down and have a discussion as to what we are talking about in terms of the branching aspect in detail, the multibank, if there are some additional limitations or variations there of the branching, and I really believe you are going to see some people sit down at the table and talk should it happen to advance that previously have not discussed it, have not talked, have simply been at loggerheads. Whether you ultimately decide to support it or not I think, just voting to advance it pretty well is going to make the bankers sit down and talk for the first time.

PRESIDENT: All right, the Chair now recognizes Senator Hefner speaking to the bill.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President, members, I rise to oppose this bill. As you know I have been opposing the multibanking concept ever since I have been here and I believe I will continue to do so unless there are a number of reasons that I believe that I shouldn't be opposing it. I think the banking industry in Nebraska has been doing a good job, at least it has in the rural areas where I do most of my business. Why do we need a change? Why do we want a change? I think we have a healthy situation the way it is now. The banks in Nebraska are serving the communities needs. I cannot recall one phone call that I ever received from farmers or businessmen or individuals that want this change. It is only a few of the larger banks that want the change. The businessmen, the manufacturers, they are not dissatisfied with our banking system that we have. The 400 or 450 or maybe it is 475 commercial banks in Nebraska are doing a job that we are satisfied with. They take care of the banking needs that we need. Usually local and independent bankers are leaders in a community, and if they see an opportunity for the community, they will do their best to see that the financial needs are made so that this development can become a reality. I realize that sometimes we are short of money in a rural area and I have talked to the bankers in my community about it. But they say all they have to do is go to a corresponding bank and they can get the money for us. I think that our banking industry is effective. It is healthy. It is doing a fine job for the citizens in the State of Nebraska and I say, "Why not keep it that way?" I have quite a few banks in my district.