

that we squabble about on whether the interest rates should be 18 or 19 or 20 or 21, small loan companies which we're going to fight about here a little later, credit cards, we're not dealing with those. What we are doing with the legislation then is dealing with the bulk, the vast bulk of financing that occurs in this state or almost any other state. So if my amendments are adopted, the bill will retain the state override of the federal usury preemption set forth in public law 96-221. What was that? Remember I said, unless this state takes affirmative action, unless we pass a law, it is all out of our hands. These rates are gone, and our control as a Legislature is gone forever, theoretically, unless we act and pass a law and say, no, we are affirmatively saying we want to keep control over usury rates in the state. Okay, so it says we are doing that. It also then is going to exempt from usury limitations, and let there be no kidding about this, loans made primarily for business or agricultural purposes and loans secured by mortgages on real estate. These were the three principal areas covered by the federal preemptions. The bill as amended would not affect usury limitations on all other types of what we typically call consumer lending which will be retained in the law, credit cards, charge accounts at the store, open-end credit, small loans, those credit cards like Gulf Oil, that kind of stuff. Those kind of things still contain or retain control of by other laws. Now you will recall that some of the various consumer lenders had indicated distress within their various institutions. Example, your retail merchants. I have asked my committee, as Senator Landis suggested, or as he mentioned a minute ago, to set a special hearing at which time the interested parties may appear and present whatever evidence they feel appropriate and in the best interests of the State of Nebraska. So those people that claim they need relief, Fred Stone, and his group, the retail merchants and some of those other people, they can come, and if they have got a heck of a case and can present it, why then we will have a separate bill that makes adjustments there. So then the bill does basically two things quite similar to the same things that it originally set out to do, one, identical to what it originally set out to do, it retains state control for the future by taking affirmative action and passing a law of the issue of usury rates. Number two, it then says our usury rate, if you want to use that word, for primarily business and agricultural loans is going to be whatever is negotiated in a contract between the lender and the borrower. And that is about what the amendments do. I guess I would