

March 3, 1982

LB 626

an amendment will be forthcoming either on General File or on Select File that will broaden that will allow more players to participate. And as I said last year, my position is very clear and very consistent, if it is broadened out, I will support this bill. If it is broadened out....

PRESIDENT: Half a minute, Senator.

SENATOR DWORAK:where it becomes more competitive, then I think it is a worthy piece of legislation and one this Legislature should very seriously consider.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I rise in support of LB 626 and against the kill motion which we are now debating offered by Senator Lamb. And as I stand before you I think my reputation is pretty clear in this body and in the state as one who supports consumer interests, as one concerned about the consumer of the State of Nebraska in many different ways and as one who is not enamored with big business and is concerned about the big business influence and yet I stand today in strong support for multibank holding companies and I want to explain why. All this talk about the fact that it is the big banks versus the little banks and how this is characterized in a way that will appeal to the general public, that of course I think naturally most people in the general public don't know much about multibank holding companies and their natural assumption would be, well they'd probably favor the little bank over the big bank. I think most people in this state are concerned about bigness and concerned about urban domination in banking and other areas. Well that is simply not the case with multibank holding companies. In my district in Lincoln, Nebraska, I have three small banks. They are Gateway Bank, Havelock Bank and Citizens State Bank. They are the primary service banks for my part of town. There are also auxiliary banks from some of the downtown banks as well but I will tell you speaking strictly at those suburban banks, are all a hundred percent behind this bill and the effort we are undertaking to try and allow for multibank holding companies. Those banks are not large banks. They are not the big, dangerous banks that we're hearing talk about here on the floor today in support of the kill motion. These are the smaller banks serving the neighborhoods of my part of town and there are similar banks in other neighborhoods in towns across the State of Nebraska and some of the small towns across the state that see the need for multibank holding companies. And so when you characterize the little versus big, that is not accurate I don't believe in most cases, in many cases at least and I