

to a branch of the acquiring bank. It's a little confusing and hopefully the flow chart adequately describes what occurred, and hopefully Senator Landis will clarify it as he usually does clarify issues like this when he speaks. Again, in the case of situation number two, the Banking Department indicated that a change in statute was necessary for this transaction to occur. Again, and in both cases, the public policy rationale is the same, one to encourage small rural banks to stay in operation, those that already exist to be purchased by a larger bank or another bank and to stay in operation in rural communities. It is not a branch banking bill. There is no branching of, into another county or within a county. It is simply assuming the ownership of an existing bank in these two situations, both...and as you'll notice by the letter that we handed out, both the Nebraska Bankers Association and the Nebraska Independent Bankers Association have endorsed the amendment. The Nebraska Department of Banking has no objection. And, again, as I said, there's...I think there's a good, sound public policy reason for maintaining this, in this case, the bank in Louisville and other rural banks, enabling them to continue to operate. I appreciate Senator Wehrbein for his help in co-sponsoring LB 333. I appreciate the Banking Committee for moving it to the floor and Senator Barrett for allowing us to amend this on to this bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, you all know that a bill that has the word "bank" in the same sentence with the word "branch" is a potential minefield. It is because these circumstances, these two circumstances are rare, unlikely to occur a second time, but existing at the present moment that this amendment is before us. I promised to tell you who winners and losers were as best I could in banking bills. In this case the American National Holding Company will get administrative assistance, American National Corporation will get administrative ease by being able to have a branch that is attached to or connected with a home bank that is 20 miles distant as opposed to a home bank that is 70 miles distant. That is what will occur when the Louisville bank becomes connected to the Omaha bank rather than the Humboldt bank. It's all inside the same holding company, no banks change hands, it is simply to which of the banks this branch will become attached and it will save some administrative difficulty. The portion of the bill that had some headway to make, some suspicions to