

from the hearing, investors are endangered in no way. In fact, this bill will give us the highest premium in sales. That will mean, then, greater capitalization for S & Ls and it should mean that those institutions are healthier and stronger as quickly as possible. It permits, the bill permits smaller banks to participate in this process, and to have more localized ownership of these old S & L and thrift branches, rather than to have one huge, large owner of all the S & Ls, a successor owner, who will control the entire branch network throughout the state. Unless we change the law, that is the likely outcome and that outcome is either going to be a large out-of-state institution, or one of the very largest of Nebraska banking institutions. This puts small banks into the game and allows them to buy S & L branches. And for that reason, I offer 956 to the body and ask you to advance it to and E & R Initial. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you, sir. Discussion on the motion to advance the bill. Senator Bernard-Stevens, Senator Wehrbein next.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Senator Landis, would you yield to a question at this time?

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Landis, would you respond?

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: David, I am just kind of listening to what you are saying and trying to piece it all together. I guess one of the things that comes to my mind that I would like to have you speak on a couple of minutes is a concern on the surface, and it may be not valid once we get down below, that successful S & Ls or successful branches or competitive branches may, in fact, be able to be sold, and partially even broken up into various parts to be sold. I guess my question is, what about the S & Ls or the branches that are not doing well, that are not profitable, that obviously would not be purchased, at that point, who is going to pick up at some point that loss leader, if you wish, who is going to pick that up? Will it be the State of Nebraska? Is it going to be the federal? How does that tie in with that which is left over?

SENATOR LANDIS: Well, let me tell you that 956 is limited. It is not intended to be the purchase of healthy S & Ls. Those are contemplated to continue to operate. LB 956 authorizes Nebraska banks, without respect to Nebraska branch banking law, to