

SENATOR LYNCH: Mr. Speaker and members, could I ask either Senator Landis, Senator Wesely or Senator Schmit a question. The question is simply, can you give me an example of a financial institution, in any small community, that didn't do something that you think was important to help that community?

SPEAKER BARRETT: Where would you like to direct the question? To Senator Landis?

SENATOR LYNCH: Oh, anybody that knows what bank didn't give a loan to somebody that needed it, that justified it, or whatever. I was just curious.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Landis, would you like to respond?

SENATOR LANDIS: I will be happy to respond. As I say that, I want you to know that this amendment is separate from the CRA issue. This amendment has...doesn't touch that issue that has been under discussion now by Senator Warner, Senator Schmit and Senator Lynch. But the answer to the question that I would give is this, while I cannot give you a specific loan instance, I can tell you that there are banks in this state that have loaned up portfolios of 30 percent, 40 percent, that the rest of their money is in federal notes of one kind or another. And the argument is two-fold. One argument is, they're sleepy banks who are taking their easiest way to make money. The responding argument is, if there were good loans in our community, we would make them. We just aren't making them because people don't come to us, and this is what we're doing with the rest of our money.

SENATOR LYNCH: Okay, that's...

SENATOR LANDIS: That argument came to the floor in the interstate when larger banks complained about the lack of activity of smaller banks. And that would be as close to an example as I can give you.

SENATOR LYNCH: Well, thank you. Again, it's a subjective reaction to a question that nobody really has a good answer for. It's sort of a wish and a dream. We hope that, if we can pass an amendment to this bill that indicates, you know if we're playing games behind the glass or down on first floor on the eighth floor or anywhere else, I don't think we should play games with taxpayers as well. And, if we try to leave the impression, for example, that by adopting something on this bill