

March 28, 1990

LB 457

are very slim, if at all, so I would support the amendment. Ask you to support the amendment and it ought to bring into the fold all the rest of my rural senators who have been somewhat reluctant to join in the support of LB 457.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Landis, please.

SENATOR LANDIS: Senator Schmit and I agree on this one. I would suggest that the Warner amendment is the appropriate way to face this public policy issue. It is the right way to frame the issue. The question should be, do we want branch banking in this state or not? That's a good, clear, straight-up question that we should ask ourselves. There is a case to be made for it, there is a case to be made against it. In that sense I will join with Senator Schmit and vote for the Warner amendment. Once it is adopted, that then is the question before us, and I think that deserves our best analysis as to whether we support it or not. What is most pernicious, however, is the idea that this is a concept that we will only inculcate in three counties and alter, if you will, the mix between the rights of bank charters in 90 counties from the rights of bank charters in three counties. All of those charters should have the same rights, it seems to me, and the Warner amendment would allow us to consider that question on the basis unto which it should be most appropriately decided. I'll be happy to vote for the Warner amendment. Of course, then let's talk about 457 as good law, but we will have faced the question squarely and appropriately.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Nelson, please.

SENATOR NELSON: Mr. Speaker, this is somewhat a learning process for me, not having served in the Banking Committee and so on and so I truly am trying to sort through LB 457 since I come from a community that has both large banks and smaller banks and independent banks very near. Needless to say, I've had input from all sources on this bill. I didn't feel myself knowledgeable enough and I still don't. I had the very same idea as Senator Warner. Why not allow branch banking countywide, or if you're going to do that, almost open it up statewide. My question this morning to some of the people that were on the phone with me, all right, if...what's wrong with my small town banks being able to put a branch bank in Grand Island? Well, I don't know. They can give the personal service and so on that we may or may not be able to. I don't know if