

The Nebraska Bankers Association are neutral on this and I urge you to adopt the amendment this year and allow strong and dependable banking systems in the State of Nebraska by allowing unlimited banking in the State of Nebraska. And I think the fact that the amendment does say that it shall not be established in a city, town or village with a population of 2,500, unless there is consent from the bank, and that is sent immediately or mailed immediately by certified mail to the Department of Banking, and let's get on with dependable banking systems in the State of Nebraska. I urge the adoption of the amendment.

SENATOR MORRISSEY PRESIDING

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you, Senator Labeledz. Senator Landis, would you care to speak to the Labeledz amendment to LB 470?

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, LB 470 got out of the Banking Committee over my objection. I voted against it. But at the time we did adopt a series of committee amendments which were approved to the bill, among them moving away from unlimited branching down to six branches. Senator Schmit said at that time that he was not interested on the floor to alter that number. Now he didn't say that he was committed not to altering the number. His expression was that he was not interested in having the number changed on the floor. Senator Labeledz has offered this motion to return the bill to the idea of unlimited branching, a form of the bill that did not get out of the committee, since the committee reduced it down to six branches, but does add a palliative with respect to small towns, not allowing branching in small towns, I assume, as a way of cutting off some of the political liability of the issue. I want to make two remarks, one on this amendment and then later on I want to make one just on the bill itself and then I will let the body make their own decisions. The Banking Committee did not report the bill out with unlimited branching. The burden of proof that a bill needs to make in public hearing just wasn't met and the committee reported out a bill only after rather tortuous argument with a limitation to six branches. As far as any evidence of public convenience, any argument or issue of the need for better services to the public went totally unsupported by any individual who was not bank affiliated. This, by the way, is not the same situation as some of the other bills that we had in this year. We actually had a bill that had real citizens that came into the Legislature and told us they