

course, they will supersede state laws. But most of the bankers that I have talked to in my area think we've gone far enough in branch banking at this time. And this amendment here calls for unlimited branching and I don't think we're ready for that. I realize I don't serve on the Banking Committee so I probably haven't heard all the arguments but...but just in analyzing it, I can't see why, at this time, that we'd want to go that much further. I don't think we're ready for it. Over the years, we've had many branch banking bills and we have taken a gradual approach in branch banking and I think we want to keep doing that. Like I said before, we passed a couple of branch banking bills and I certainly think that's going far enough this year. I can't see that there would be any benefit, any benefit to Nebraska in passing this or adopting this amendment and then passing the bill. I believe that our banking situation is working okay at this time and so I just encourage you not to support this amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you, Senator Hefner. Our next speaker is Senator Schmit on the Labeledz amendment.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Well, Mr. President and members, I will support the Labeledz amendment but I want to say this, that the Banking Committee, as outlined by Senator Landis, advanced the bill with the committee amendments and there wasn't any iron-clad governance of what we do on the floor but there were certain conditions that Senator Landis had outlined, which I agreed with. When you have a bill, ladies and gentlemen, we all know that you take what you can get. If you've got the votes, you ride roughshod. If you don't, you take a little less. In this instance, we were happy to get five votes to get the bill to the floor and have an actual live bill. Now, relative to the amendment, I want to say that I really do not see that there is anything really wrong with the amendment. For all practical purposes, we have unlimited branch banking in the state today. You can buy an S&L. We have the 'failed bank bill. We have a half dozen other systems whereby you can expand, whereby you can branch, whereby you can take over their territory, whereby you can get into somebody else's backyard. It used to be a major event. Back in 1973 when I introduced the bill to have a second auxiliary teller facility, you would have thought I was turning the keys to the bank over to John Dillinger. Everyone went crazy with the exception of two or three institutions. We have made a lot of progress since then. In some instances, Senator Hefner, you're probably right, we may not have made as much