

allow those institutions, which would merge in that kind of situation, to retain their ability to branch. It does not provide for unlimited branching. And Senator Landis was correct, had the amendment been drafted as before, it would have been unlimited branching throughout the state. That is not what we're trying to do. And I would ask for the adoption of this amendment.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you, Senator Schmit. I'll recognize the speakers in the following order--Senator Pirsch, Senator Landis, and Senator Wesely. Senator Pirsch, on the Schmit amendment.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could I have a...could I ask a question of Senator Schmit, please.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Senator Schmit, would you respond.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Yes, Senator Pirsch.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Senator Schmit, by taking out the 25 mile radius and putting it within a city limit, so to speak, as it has been, this is really limiting competition then in the small towns, is it not?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Yes, of course, Senator, it does not allow for branching, for example, between two communities, oh, let's see, Dwight and Seward, for example.

SENATOR PIRSCH: I have a letter here from Farmers Bank of Clatonia, and they would like to establish a branch in Cortland, Nebraska. And I'm not sure how far away they are, but this, if we voted for your amendment, that would preclude them opening a branch in Cortland then.

SENATOR SCHMIT: You are correct, Senator, and I will use some of my time to explain that, if you would like me to do so.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Okay. Well, I guess, you know, I'm not a small town representative, but I did receive quite a few letters on this, and I am concerned, because I want to help the small town banks as well as my big city banks. So I'll be listening to that explanation. Thank you.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you, Senator Pirsch. Our next speaker