

is Senator Landis on the Schmit amendment. Senator Wesely.

**SENATOR WESELY:** I would support the Schmit amendment. And I would have supported the bill as originally was drafted. I think we're making much to do about an issue that may be moot. And I could talk about this bill when it's advanced, but you know, we're sitting here arguing about whether or not we should allow a branching at 25 miles outside of the city limits, or across the State of Nebraska while the Congress, right now, is considering banking legislation that would basically deregulate the banks across the country, and allow them, in many cases, to go wherever they wish across the country. With the larger banks in particular coming across state lines, and having the ability and flexibility to consolidate and gain in size, and strength, and influence, and I think clearly we're very cautious about opening up the doors. But I think we're a little bit too cautious when we're faced with a sort of opening of the floodgates that are being contemplated right now in Washington. This seems like a very minor matter. But I would support the Schmit amendment, I would have supported the bill in its original form.

**SENATOR MORRISSEY:** Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Schmit.

**SENATOR SCHMIT:** I would like to just comment briefly upon the question raised by Senator Pirsch, and appreciate the remarks of Senator Wesely. We just as well be frank, ladies and gentlemen. We have seen major changes in the banking structure in Nebraska in the last 20 years. Most cases I've had a hand in some of those changes. And in most instances we have made those changes with some of the individuals kicking and screaming and objecting. What's kind of interesting is that each time we have made those changes we have made some converts. And, as has been pointed out by Senator Pirsch, Clatonia would like to merge into Cortland...or branch into Cortland. As I look out in rural Nebraska I have a number of letters, and many of you have received letters from smaller banks, members of the Independent Bankers Association which have said we would like to branch into this city, or that city. Now let me be very frank also. Maybe that little bank in that city where bank A wants to branch into doesn't really want them there. We started out by saying if you, under Senator Labedz's amendment, that if the bank, in a town of 2,500 or less, didn't want big brother, down the road, to branch in there, they could say no and keep them out. Well, obviously, it's a matter again of protecting the franchise of an