

existing institution. The question then arises, what is more important, to protect the business of an institution, to protect the domain? Obviously, that's what we do on this floor time, after time, after time. You know, I'm getting hate mail from the pickle people because I said it's time to worry about the integrity of that business rather than whether or not someone's got a job or not. The point I want to make here is this, there will always be conflicts, no matter what kind of bill we draw. I wish, Senator Pirsch, we could draw a bill that says Clatonia could branch into Cortland. I'm sure that would be happy...make the people in Clatonia happy. I'm not so sure about the folks in Cortland, some would be, some would not be. Then we'd have another bill, and I have a whole bunch of those letters which would require additional specific amendments. I don't think we can do that. What we're trying to do here is to make it possible for the institutions that branch or merge with another institution in the city to retain their rights to have at least...to merge and to retain their right to branching within that entity. If there is a merger between, for example, FirstTier and David City, and there was, then we could still have the right to branch, to have six branches in David City. Obviously we don't need them. But in some entities we might want one or two. But, anyway, it is impossible to draft this bill to please everyone. What I am hoping we're doing here is that we're making it possible for a better system of banking, in some instances not as good as some would like, but in some instances we're making it more efficient and better than it has been in the past. I would hope that as time progresses that we will find more of the rural banks looking at this sort of vehicle as a method whereby they may, in fact, better serve the people of their community. There are people in David City who do not like the fact that First of Omaha, and FirstTier, and Union Bank of Lincoln are now the banks in David City. But let me tell you something, ladies and gentlemen, back in the middle of the eighties, when banking was going through hell without a shirt, we were awfully glad to have those institutions come to those...to that town...

SPEAKER BAACK PRESIDING

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...and help us retain banking services in that community. Not quite as good as when Les Zuba and Paul Kush sat across the desk, and if you wanted to borrow 5,000 bucks they