

a large institution. So, I guess I have some question why did you decide at this one level, Senator Landis, at the...to make this deal?

SENATOR LANDIS: That's a fair question, Senator Hartnett. My original goal is to write a form of a bill that would have the basically uniform rolls...rules across border to border, differentiated by the size of the town. So that the rural sized towns would have one set of rules, and larger commercial interests would have another set of rules. I could not get agreement on that, probably more from the small town banks than anyone else, because of the break point between the two systems, I couldn't get the place where that break point would exist. So, what we did was we went back to the place where the...where the wheel is now squeaking. The wheel is now squeaking in a single economic marketplace. That marketplace has an abstract geographical and political line drawn through it, but that political line drawn through it is not representative of the economic reality, and that is that Douglas County and Sarpy County are one economic entity, they are one marketplace. People will go from Papillion to Omaha, from Omaha back to Bellevue to purchase goods and to do services. But that is...there's a lot of travel there, there's a lot of economic business, there's a lot of bedroom community aspect in which people live one place, work another and yet they are part of one economic whole. That whole would be described as an SMSA in other federal legislation, where it's treated as a statistical area that has one economic reality. The reason that Douglas and Sarpy County are treated differently is because they represent a unique situation in which the geographical barrier between their...those two powerful economic magnets is an "abhoration", it does not reflect one economic whole.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Can I ask Senator Landis another question? Do you...building on what Senator Wehrbein said, do you see that I think what he was simply saying, this is fine for right now because, you know, and we're not going to have any more branch legislation, you know, for a few years. Do you see the branching, we've started with these counties here, do you see it extending, you know, within a...

SENATOR LANDIS: Sure.

SENATOR HARTNETT: ...within a short period of time, or a long period of time, or...