

operated savings and loans. And actually they will probably be taking somewhat of a small beating, if they decided to expand. I have one of the largest in that category in Grand Island, and they...the question came up, now what does it do to us? Simply, they will have to go to a federal charter to be able to expand themselves. I guess we're talking \$5,000 to \$12,000 for that. But I do have to say that Senator Landis explained the Walthill amendment to me, and it seemed like for the good of the state and the good of the banking industry, I hate to say it, it is a hardship on those savings and loans. But again it seems like that it's the best in the long-run. And I did appreciate Senator Landis helping me with...with the concern. And, with that, I will be supporting the bill.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Nelson. Before we proceed with debate, I would like to call the senators attention to the south balcony. Special guests today of Senator Rogers are 15 eleventh and twelfth graders from Spalding Academy in Spalding, Nebraska and their teacher. Would you please rise and be recognized. Welcome to the Chamber. Thank you. Senator Crosby, followed by Senator Schmit.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Madam President and members. You've clarified a lot of things for me, Senator Landis. And I just want to say a couple of things about banking in general these days, because Senator Wehrbein touched upon some of the concerns I have when we start changing the banking rules and laws that allow...that allow the larger banks to grow even bigger, and little by little the smaller communities, we keep talking about supporting and protecting rural Nebraska, and I'm not sure that this kind of bill does that. I'm going to vote for the amendment, undoubtedly, and probably vote for the bill as it goes on. But I want to say a couple of things again about the small towns and the small banks, because I still think they're very important, and I hope, some way or another, we can...we can figure out, as we go along, if some more things come from the federal government to regulate banks, that we can...can strengthen and protect, at least, the small cities across the state. Those are very important to our economy. If any of you have ever read Bess Streeter Aldrich, she's one of my favorite Nebraska authors. She has a short story called The Drum Goes Dead. And it's about...it's a Christmas story about when people come home for Christmas and about Richard Lanning, who is the town banker. And he...he...the story brings out, so faithfully, what the small town banker means to that small town and to that