

tactical pressures that we've had in knock-down, drag out bank structure fights in the past.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Would it be accurate to say, from your point of view, that the only thing that we needed to do, absolutely had to do...

PRESIDENT MOUL: Time.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: ...would be the Walthill amendment, and you can answer on your time, or in closing or whatever. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Kristensen. Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Madam Chairman, members, Senator Landis' description of the independents and the major bankers as being like these Israeli's and the Arabs, I assume, the independents would be the Israeli's. I think the difference there is that the Israeli's are a proud and self-sufficient group whose dedication is to the group as a whole, and certainly to their cause, and to the people whom they represent. There have been many, many independent bankers in Nebraska who have served their communities well. And if you drive or fly across the state, those communities can be spotted and you can absolutely tell if the local banker is doing the job well and the committee...community is alive and growing, and I have many of those kind of bankers in my district. On the contrary, there are some that have not really served their community well. And that is where the change in bank structures has been beneficial. Where there has been some mergers, for example, we had a merger of FirstTier with a very excellently managed bank in David City, and it has worked to the betterment of both the community and FirstTier and what was formerly the First National Bank. There was a recognition there that the amount of capital needed today is so large, and the risk is so great that an institution without sufficient capital could be threatened by some of these adverse market forces. It does concern me, and I think Ed Schrock handed out an article which I think we should all read, it's very brief. But I would have to concur that there is a very serious financial crisis facing, not just agriculture, but the entire rural areas of the state, and that we will see it in a downturn in receipts at the state government this fall and, of course, maybe even some reaction in Lincoln and Omaha. The concern that I have today is that we have not quite made that known to the people whom we are dealing with. But I do believe