

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Mr. President. To add a little bit to Senator Haberman's question of Senator Vard Johnson, Senator Johnson was correct that it would not stop all lawsuits. On the other hand, if this resolution passes, as Senator Hannibal said in his proposal of this amendment, we are king. So this resolution would send, to all those attorneys, the message you can sue all you want but the Legislature decided, on January 30, this is all you're going to get. At that time the Attorney General might go into court and say, your honor, this is a frivolous lawsuit this attorney is bringing, and I think he should be penalized for bringing a frivolous lawsuit when it is clear that the Legislature has spoken, they are not going to appropriate another dime. So I think that probably this resolution would make those attorneys, who think they can force the Legislature to do something, who think they can make a lot of money off of these depositors, would stop them short. I think this senator would be the first one to call this resolution to the first judge to hear that case so that he would know that he was hearing a frivolous lawsuit. Secondly, in my good friend, Senator Hannibal's, amendment, aside from the word "king" that caught Senator Johnson's ear, there were two other words he used that caught my ear. He told the depositors that every one of us here gives them their sympathy. I agree. But you can't eat sympathy, and you can't pay the rent with sympathy, and you can't heat your home with sympathy, and you can't clothe yourself with sympathy. The third word that caught my attention was morals. I believe Senator Hannibal said this is not a moral issue. God help the people of Nebraska if every time this Legislature passes a resolution or a bill, we do not consider the morality of it. I would hope that all of us, when we vote on anything, would not only consider whether or not this is going to be legal but is it going to be moral. In my recent campaigns, going door-to-door with many of my constituents and talking to them over the phone, many of them were opposed to paying the Commonwealth people. Then I explained to them that probably we are talking about \$20 per taxpayer to pay this. My district is the second lowest in income of the 49 legislative districts. Senator Hannibal's district is considerably farther west than mine and I think Senator Hannibal would concede that the people in his district are not exactly low or middle income. But it's been my experience throughout life, especially during the