

limitations on most of these types of actions. And I ask you if a citizen is harmed, why should he have less of a chance of recovery against the government than against a private corporation or firm? It makes no sense whatsoever. The only reason that this exists, the only reason that this exists is because we have this whole doctrine called sovereign immunity and do you remember how we discussed this in the Commonwealth case? We have this whole doctrine of sovereign immunity which said that the king could not be sued, consequently it was interpreted that the government could not be sued, and the whole history of America has been a departure from sovereign immunity and we still have a ways to go to treat the citizens of this state fairly, especially, especially as government gets bigger and more pervasive it becomes even more important to give the citizen an even break against the government just as he now has an even break against big corporations. So I see nothing wrong and this is not a lopsided issue. This is a very difficult issue and it will be a long and tedious and hopefully enlightening debate but nonetheless a very serious debate. And to have two debates on this subject simply doesn't make any sense at all because both debates will be long and tedious and torturous. So I suggest to you as I suggested to you at the beginning, I hope that you will see fit to consolidate these discussions into a discussion of one bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Thank you. Senator Schmit, please.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I rise in support of the motion by Senator Hannibal to bring the bill to the floor. I want to point out very plainly here that Senator Hannibal has a very excellent argument when he says that the individual who introduced the bill has, of course, when the bill comes to the floor the ability to handle that bill to that individual's satisfaction. It makes a lot of difference, Senator Peter Hoagland, and you and I both know it, who is in charge of the bill. It is also very important, you know, we used to have a lot of lip service around here about how we should limit bills and so the tendency was then to load up an individual bill with many, many different subjects. Now you can load down a pickup truck to the point that the blooming thing can't move and you can weight down a saddle horse to where he can't budge. And I have a hunch, Senator, given the information that I have here that the contents I