

our legal liability were. I knew that and I expressed that to the Governor and the Governor said to me, he said, Commonwealth is in effect a cancer in the State of Nebraska that needs to be treated. If we fail to treat the cancer it simply metastasizes and affects all government. And I recognize in the end that I was simply one of 49 state senators not invested with executive power, not invested with the ability to negotiate with the depositors and court system and anybody else to resolve this issue and I recognized in the end there was only one person in our state that was invested with those kinds of powers, responsibility and authority and that was the Governor. It wasn't Vard Johnson, it wasn't John DeCamp, it wasn't Don McGinley, it was the Governor. And I said the Governor is saying to us that to resolve this issue he needs to have \$20.5 million and he needs to have the case...the claim has to be court tested and in addition he is going to deal with Lancaster County. And so I said, you know, to resolve what is clearly an incredibly vile contemptible issue in our state it will be necessary for me to invest that Governor with \$12 million of authority that I think is over and above the state's legal liability. Sometimes one has to make those kinds of decisions and so I agreed to support the resolution. Now all along I have known in my mind \$8.5 million to \$9 million represents the extent of the state's legal exposure. I think I have expressed that, but I signed the resolution and now comes the test. It is a test of will. It is a test of keeping the faith, keeping the commitment. And, Lincoln senators, somehow the video slot issue gets entangled with this, it's never been entangled with me. It's a question of one's word, keeping the commitment. This is a hard pill, depositors...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: ...it's not an easy task to do. If you think it is, you've got another think coming, but we've only got one leader in our state. We've only got one person who can deal with this issue and that one person tells us that so much money is necessary, that one person has relied upon our resolution, has gone out and sold that to as many depositors as he can find, sold that to a court system. The issue is still subject to a final Supreme Court test. Sometimes one has to invest one's faith and confidence in somebody else and give that person the authority to go ahead and do a job that we all know needs to be done. And so,