

SENATOR HEFNER: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I rise to oppose this. I'd like to tell you something that we found out today. We have a new lobbyist for the State Banking Department. I hope you are listening to this. We have a new lobbyist for the State Banking Department, Steve Fowler. I understand that he's lobbying for video slots. Now I don't think that is the job of the State Banking Department, I really don't. So why don't you consider this, the things that we are doing today I don't think are justified. I also have another slip here, Walt Radcliffe is being paid \$30,000 by the Department of Banking and Finance receiver for Commonwealth Savings Company. So these two are really tied together. Is this the way this Legislature wants to legislate? I doubt it. I doubt it. I hate to bring these things out, but I think that you should know it. I would say that we need a little more time. I'm hopeful that my friend, Senator Johnson, will withdraw that so that we can get some other amendments on this bill, or especially the Pappas amendment because I think it needs to be amended further. I know that many of you here are committed to the Commonwealth proposal. I certainly feel sorry for them. At the present time I cannot support it. But if this video slot, video lottery doesn't get on I may just go ahead and support it with general fund money because I think this is a bad way to do it. Please consider the actions that we are doing here today. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Rod Johnson, then Senator Pappas.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. President, this is the first time I've spoken today. I'll make my comments very brief. I'm ready to support the motion to suspend the rules and vote. I think this body has decided exactly where they stand with both of these issues, one way or the other. I have been opposing the video lottery devices. I will continue to do so. How they fit into a litter bill I don't know, but they are there. We voted them in. It's going to stay there. You might say they are both trash...deal with trash, that is neither here nor there. But the fact is we voted on it. It is in the bill. Let's vote with it, up or down, and move ahead. We've got the Commonwealth claim laying ahead. I would like a chance to vote on that. I'm ready to make a decision on that issue, one that will not be popular with my district, but I've decided the time has come to deal with that issue as well. I'm going to give them my vote to solve