

because he is giving it to you. There it is. If you turn it down, then who knows what the end results will be. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Vard Johnson, then Senator Remmers, then Senator Barrett.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I guess I'm going to give a hard talk, the kind of talk I don't like to have to give. Some time ago in January I agreed that I would support \$20.5 million to the depositors of Commonwealth to reorganize Commonwealth. But I watched this Commonwealth legislation unfold and when last week only 14 votes, including mine, including mine, were present to advance the Commonwealth bill, LB 713 to Final Reading, I began to inquire as to what it was that was causing my colleagues not to vote to advance LB 713. I thought maybe the reason 713 would not advance is that there were a number of senators who were committed to the video lottery issue who were irritated because Lincoln senators who were not committed to that issue would not help and so I inquired around and what I learned is that it wasn't really the case. What I learned was that there were a number of state senators who had voted for LB 713 on General File because they had committed themselves to the Governor for a General File vote and that was it. And I learned that the support for \$20.5 million was incredibly shallow and what I then learned was that there were a number of state senators who could easily support the approved and allowed court settlement of \$8.5 million. In fact I think there is a majority in this Legislature that can easily support \$8.5 million. Now the only question I couldn't quite ascertain is how that was to be financed. Some of my colleagues say that should be financed right out of general funds. I say, but, yes, to do so you've got to increase the tax rates and my colleagues back away. So in the end I decided that the better part of virtue, because I want Commonwealth to be resolved this session, was to go with an \$8.5 million bill, was to go with an \$8.5 million bill because that could get majority support and to continue to have that financed in the method that the Governor has already prescribed which is that the State Office Building will be sold to Lincoln. Lincoln will lease it back to the State of Nebraska. Lincoln will do a bond issue but this time of course for only \$8.5 million. That will retire those bonds much quicker because that seemed to be the only