

financing mechanism that would sail in light of our determination not to increase tax rates. So I have an amendment up later on to do exactly that. I think in the last analysis Commonwealth depositors will be terribly disappointed. Legislators, you will be pleased at finally putting the Commonwealth issue behind us. I think the way to go is to accept a reality which is, this Legislature is not going to make a commitment to \$20.5 million. It will commit itself to \$8.5 million and it will finance that through the method already prescribed by the Governor.

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: I will support that. I will also support \$20.5 million incidentally, but I am a realist. I think that the \$8.5 million is the way that we need to go. We need to get this issue behind us. I have an amendment coming up to do exactly that. I would suggest at this juncture that we repudiate Senator DeCamp's amendments and wait for my amendment which I have already passed out to you which you have on your desk which would do as I indicated.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Remmers, then Senator Barrett.

SENATOR REMMERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I support Senator DeCamp's amendment for the \$8.5 million. The courts have approved that tort claim and I think that there is a majority here that are ready to pay that \$8.5 million and I think we ought to go ahead and do it. If we're going to try to wait for that \$20 million I'm afraid they might end up without any this session because all the evidence that we have is that the courts are not going to allow that \$20 million. We've had two court cases on it that have rejected it. We've had three Attorney General Opinions that have rejected it. So in order to get some money into there I think we should approve Senator DeCamp's amendment. I'm opposed to the one that is coming up that Senator Johnson is going to propose that he asked you to wait for. We've been putting off our obligations for next year and the next year and we already have put off so many obligations for next year. I think you're going to find that they are going to really hit us next year and we'll probably end up adding, not only a cent income tax, but also a half cent sales tax. I think that could be a very positive reality for next year. And for that reason I think we ought to face up to it this year and pay that