

SENATOR DECAMP: So the \$8.5 million becomes \$20 million approximately.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Yes, it becomes a larger sum of money.

SENATOR DECAMP: And the Commonwealth people don't get the \$20 million...

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: No, no.

SENATOR DECAMP: ...the state just pays \$10 or \$12 million interest on money while at the same time we're sitting here putting our money in banks trying to earn interest. I'm not sure there's a lot of intelligence in that whole system.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: If I can respond to that just for a moment, Senator DeCamp. You know my preference has always been to finance it directly. Well again, when I touched base with people in this body, people in this body did not want to do anything that would result in a tax increase and it appeared as though \$8.5 million would result in a tax increase. Therefore, I left the other mechanism of financing in the amendment.

SENATOR DECAMP: Okay. Well, I guess I'm betwixt the devil and the deep. I want to pay it now if we're going to pay it. I don't want to pay \$20 million over the next couple of years while the state is earning less money on interest somewhere else and it is the Lincoln senators that have been against the tax increase or a good portion of them. And this is a Lincoln contribution or issue or...I mean it's primarily, I know it's a statewide issue. At the same time what I would ask you to do I think is to go ahead and vote. Well...I'll take a vote on this which is 8.5 with my intention to finance it out of the general fund and if it's adopted then I can put in or we can put in whatever clarifying amendments are necessary. All I'm trying to say is I'd like \$8.5 million. I'd like to see it paid now, a true 8.5 rather than that other scheme. I think we're at the point where the moment of truth is here as we've used the word about a half a dozen times this session. The moment of truth may be \$8.5 million which is what they gave away their bowl of pottage for in the courts. That may not have been wise. That's what the receiver and they agreed to do. Everything above that according to that court