

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator DeCamp, then Senator Wesely.

SENATOR DECAMP: Mr. President, I know it's prolonged debate, but I would like to recite a few things for the benefit of the Commonwealth people and for the benefit of the senators. Number one, at this point in time the Commonwealth depositors, whether they realize it or not, have signed away their rights on this issue for a total of \$8.5 million. Now the Governor has told me, well, if you only give them \$8.5 million there will be all kinds of lawsuits and so on. The Governor has to be aware of the fact that he, well he through the Banking Department, has agreed that that is what they get. They signed it away for \$8.5. That is probably all they could get. My point is the 7,000 Commonwealth people have signed away everything for \$8.5 million. If you will read the settlement agreements the only thing they reserved was the right to come before the Legislature and ask for more, under a completely separate theory not related to the liability. You have to understand that every citizen of the state has the right to come before the Legislature and ask for money, or gifts or anything else. So they signed away all their legal rights. All they retained was the right to talk to us, and that is what I've been pointing out on the other amount of money. That would be true whether it is \$4 million or \$12 million or any amount. They signed everything away for \$8.5. That is point number one. Point number two, I repeatedly attempted to get additional money for the Commonwealth depositors through a variety of different means. One of those most important ones, if you will recall, had to do with the taxes and assessments on this property that has come into the hands of Commonwealth. Now it is my understand that that total is maybe \$6, \$6.5 million. The Lincoln people, I mean the public officials and county officials and others, were adamant that they were not going to do that, that they were not going to discount or give up the taxes or anything else. It was even agreed, if you will remember, on the floor, and I have never pressed this, but I will remind you of something, it was even agreed the Commonwealth bill would never come up again unless, have you forgotten this, Senator Beutler should remember this, Speaker Nichol, it was agreed it would not come up again unless we put my bill, 691, to eliminate the taxes up at the same time so we could help the Commonwealth people more. Remember? Everybody forgotten that one? I've never