

all thought about it a lot. There is not much more that could be said that we haven't thought of already, except one thing I want to remind you of as we discuss the different issues and that is the people involved. We're talking about almost 7,000 depositors. Of those 7,000 depositors almost two-thirds or more of them are retired individuals. These are people who are older, older citizens that have served their state, they have worked hard all their lives. They have saved every bit of money that they had. Some of you have accused them of being greedy because they went for an extra half percent in a shaky institution. Well, let's face it. Many of these people are not wealthy. They are middle income individuals and that extra income meant everything to them. They were scraping for every dime and every dollar they could have. They trusted people. They trusted the Copples who they, in many cases, knew. They trusted the word of the state in terms of the NDIGC. They trusted this Legislature and our Governor and the state in general that when things go bad that we come to one another's aid. In times of crisis, whatever it be, whatever disaster they talk about, natural or man-made, this state, I always thought, pulled together for one another to help each other. When Grand Island had their tornado many of us tried to do what we could to send some money in. Red Cross came out. The state sent help and we all went over there because, although it was just Grand Island, it was also people, Nebraskans, brothers and sisters that were hurt. It's the same situation here. In Lincoln, Nebraska we have many people hurt, a disaster man-made in nature, not natural, but still people, retired people, older people with all their life savings lost, not wealthy people but middle income people. These individuals have come to us hoping, praying and expecting us to help. We are now in the last few hours of any opportunity that we have this session to do something for them. I can't tell you how many hearts are breaking right now up in the balconies, but even more so on TV and perhaps over radio, whatever, listening to us as we decide their fate. Those hearts are breaking, you know they are because they see slipping away from them any chance they had of getting their money back. The \$20.5 million was not acceptable to them, but they decided to accept it in good faith, and an \$8.5 million claim is not something they can live with. They've told me that many times. If you want to go with an \$8.5 million you'll have to do it over my objection and the objection of many others that have fought very hard for the Commonwealth people. In fact, if you want