

talking about. Please help us with the \$12.5 million amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Marsh, please.

SENATOR MARSH: Mr. Speaker, are there others waiting to speak?

SPEAKER NICHOL: Eight of them.

SENATOR MARSH: I move the previous question.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Question is...do I see five hands? I do. The question is shall debate cease. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. We're voting to cease debate. We're voting on ceasing debate. Please vote if you care to do so. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Debate has ceased. We are on the Beutler amendment, I believe. Senator Beutler, would you like to close.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, once again what the amendment does is appropriate a total...or allow the appropriation, under certain conditions, the total of \$12.5 million to settle the Commonwealth claims. It would allow an \$8.5 tort claim, and it would add to that a \$4 million miscellaneous claim. In other words, the miscellaneous claim is being reduced from \$12 million, which is what was approved on General File, to \$4 million. We have been over this subject so many times I don't think there is anything that I can say that is going to sway you probably one way or the other. But I hope that each one of you will look within yourselves and will flash through your mind all of the events of the Commonwealth sequence of events, the history of the regulation of the institutions from the 70s up until recent times, what the Legislature did and didn't do, what the Banking Department did and didn't do, and what the NDIGC did and didn't do, and I hope your conscience is telling you that there is a little bit there beyond the strict tort claim, that there is a moral obligation there that is worth something beyond the legal obligation. I know at one point in time you believed that. I hope the circumstances haven't changed. I hope you