

any such appropriation being constitutionally and legally valid." And then we put the severance clause in, in case somebody would say, well, this is unconstitutional, put this in, which I don't think it is. So why go to all this trouble? On behalf of the State of Nebraska, the citizens, they have a right to know when this is brought to an end, when it is completed. And I believe with legislative intent, with the adoption by the Legislature, should you choose to do it, that this settles once and for all any legal or potential legal liability, obligation or claims against the state and the citizens should know it, it's over. Now I have said before and I say again, there is no law I can pass or anybody else can pass that can prevent somebody from saying we have a moral obligation. Senator Smith, Senator Nelson can introduce a bill. Senator DeCamp can introduce a bill tomorrow morning saying there is a moral obligation to do this or that. I'm not afraid of that. I'm not afraid of that because ultimately the Constitution will prevent giving any money to Commonwealth on "a moral grounds". It is the legal liability I am concerned about and that I want to protect the State of Nebraska from any further exposure. And I believe with the legislative debate and attempt and adoption of this amendment, if you do it, it once and for all gets that settled and we should have Commonwealth behind us and ready to go to other things. For the benefit of Commonwealth depositors maybe more important. Why? Because I believe at this point in time the average Commonwealth depositor, in fact, almost all of them, if not all of them, believe that somehow this is merely a down payment, as was suggested at the committee hearing, that this is merely a down payment and we go on and on with more "legal obligations", legal claims, legal exposure, legal liability. If they are going to get their \$8.5 million, if that is what is being done for them or to them, depending upon your perspective, then at least put it out there in black and white as to what it is. If they sincerely believe that they can win a lawsuit on legal liability, if they really believe it, then they should not take the \$8.5 million, but at least they should know what they are giving up when they take it and that is all I'm trying to do. You take this, you give up that. Same as with a car accident, any other thing. If you take the money and sign the paper, it's over, it's finished. That's why I feel it imperative after all that has happened, at least the last week, last few days, to clear up once and for all, Mr. Depositor, for all practical purposes, once you take