

would respond to this question please.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Coordsen, do you respond?

SENATOR COORDSEN: Yes.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Senator Coordsen, you raised the question as to whether or not this is constitutional. We have labored long and hard in an attempt to try to reimburse the Commonwealth and other depositors in a manner which is constitutional. If I can prove to you that this approach is constitutional, will you then support the amendment?

SENATOR COORDSEN: If you can prove to me to my satisfaction, Senator Schmit, I would certainly consider supporting the amendment because of all the reasons I stated before.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Thank you, Senator Coordsen. You have been well aware and conscious of the responsibility we have to these depositors ever since your entry into this Legislature and I appreciate it. I want to say this. We can discuss at great length on this floor some of the inequities and some of the problems that we have, and I think Senator Crosby has pointed out some of them; others have pointed out some of them. The facts are that we know this process has worked in the past. We know that given this situation with Mr. Johnson, where he has already pleaded guilty to actually stealing 1,300,000, the entire process...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...which he was in charge is open to question and I again suggest that you need not take my word for the value of these properties. You need only to drive out to the property and look at it yourself and visit those areas, speak to the people who have made those investments to know that the situation is as it is described in the tort claim. I want to also point out this. I have been there, I've talked to people, I continue to do so and those of us who live in outstate do not have as many constituents as do the Lincoln legislators. But, ladies and gentlemen, you lose your money in a situation like this, one at a time, one at a time, not en gross, not en masse, the Commonwealth claims as far as I am concerned is not a group of people.