

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members, I will also not take much time. You've been very generous this morning. I just want to say this. I think that we have to start taking a look at these claims individually, one by one, as Senator Morrissey has pointed out. If we have a tendency to lump them together we have a very easy out and we cannot accept the easy way out anymore. We have to take responsibility. I have the clipping from the World-Herald yesterday morning about Mr. Peery and his lifestyle and the manner in which he carried on and carried out his duties and I can only say this, that the people of my district are disgusted. I received more phone calls and more contacts yesterday holding me responsible for that than I have for almost anything that has happened in the last 23 years. They are really disgusted. Once again, and I have from time to time on this floor, Senator Morrissey and I have not agreed and I'm sure that will happen again, but the point is this, ladies and gentlemen. You have a right and an obligation to represent your district and to speak from your convictions and not your wants and your needs. I know that Senator Morrissey is speaking from conviction and that is good enough for me and I think that in view of the situation we face today, it's time that we tried to provide some degree of credibility for the compact and its commission, its commissioners and the people with whom we work. I support the amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Schmit. Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I won't take much time either but I do have a question of Senator Morrissey. I visited with Senator Morrissey and asked him if he would be willing then, if he thinks that it was unfair the way the money was paid out, in all fairness why the folks that received more than they should have received, if he would support them paying back the overpaid amount and he did say to me that he felt that it was the department's screw-up in his words and for that reason didn't support, require them to pay the money back. I guess I'd like to ask Senator Morrissey if he would respond to a couple of questions.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Morrissey.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Gladly.

SENATOR SMITH: I'm going to ask the questions, then you can