

the \$500 payment came due he would buckle at the knees and I would also if I had to make the payment. What we are doing here is we are giving away a gift but we're not figuring out where the money is coming from. I'm going to make a commitment here this morning on this...or this afternoon on this bill which I don't often do. There's been a lot of work on the bill.

PRESIDENT: Senator Schmit, may I interrupt you, please. (Gavel.) Please let's hold it down so we can hear the speakers.

SENATOR SCHMIT: There have been a lot of people that have expressed their concerns. There have been a lot of amendments offered and very few which have been accepted. I am going, if necessary, to give my vote to advance the bill because I do not want to see it hung up on General File and go to the bottom of General File. I am going to do that based upon consensus or, hopefully, some sort of an idea that we might be able to get together in the next few days or few weeks and work out some guaranteed system of funding for the bill.

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Without that guaranteed funding for the bill, I do not believe the bill is an honest bill. I call your attention again to 994 of a few years ago. The statute is still on the books. It is there without any funding. If you want to do something for teachers, go back and fund 994. We're not going to do it. Unless you have the money here, not just this year, but the year after, and the year after, and the year after, you're going to be out of luck. Those of you who are dedicated to this idea and who are committed to the idea that you can get the money regardless, remember you have a tough row to hoe. There are tens of millions, if not hundreds of millions of dollars of programs competing for your dollars. Without a guaranteed commitment you're not going to get the job done. You had a chance this morning for whatever reasons, I'm sure they were good ones, you rejected the idea. I'm asking you again to take a second look at it between the time it comes...between now and the time it comes up on Select File.

PRESIDENT: Time.

SENATOR SCHMIT: So I ask you to take a good look at that. Thank you very much.