

Attorney General who did not carry out his responsibilities, and when you have that many public officials representing the state, and by extrapolation the people of the state, engaging in conduct that was inappropriate, refusing and failing to do other things that their duty required them to do and the result was damage to people who had been led to trust in those state officials and the operation of an institution, I do believe the state has an obligation and a responsibility to make good on the promise that was made. There was an incident involving Abraham Lincoln where an individual came to him and alleged that there was a certain thing Lincoln should do because he had made a promise, and Lincoln wasn't so sure that he had really made the promise, but after listening to the individual and seeing how things that he himself, Lincoln, had said could have led the person to believe that the promise had been made, Lincoln said, the promise having been made, must be kept. I don't think that it's going to break the treasury of this state nor harm anybody for the state to remove this blot from its public record by anteing up this money that ought to be returned to the depositors. It will end once and for all the agony that people have felt, the arguments that have gone back and forth, the acrimonious discussions and accusations that probably will never end. I think this one time, since the opportunity is presented to us in this fashion, we should reject the committee amendments, then we will have all of the people who have suffered a loss placed on the same footing and we can review and make a decision about all of them on that basis. But to select certain individuals and exclude others, when they all were victimized in essentially the same way, I think would be unconscionable for the Legislature to do. We would be creating a new division by a deliberate and conscious legislative act and I think that is something we should never do. So I hope we will defeat the committee amendments...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBEKS: ...then go forward and adopt the bill.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Crosby, followed by Senator Withem.

SENATOR CROSBY: I yield my time to Senator Landis.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the