

all the depositors are in the same boat, that we are going to treat the depositors as people who are interchangeable in their moral relationship to the state. I think that is the appropriate relationship and I'm glad the body has supported that notion. Now the question comes, can we compensate these individuals? Frankly, we've got a surplus this year and we're arguing about what to do with that surplus. We're arguing about property tax relief, paying teachers, defeasing bonds, income tax returns, all kinds of payments with respect to money that we have in the bank, and every one of those ideas is meritorious. But, to me, the first claim on our treasury should be the exoneration of our good name and the compensation of individuals who have relied upon us. My suggestion to the body is that we advance the bill in its current form, that privately, between General File and Select File, let me pass among you to hear out your thoughts on the notion of interest or a sum of money that you think is appropriate to put into 356 to use its formula, and to make what compensation we can this year. It would be very cruel it seems to me when, in fact, we are flush with the unexpected benefits of growth in this state and of our tax change, and with that money which we are now inventing ways of taking care of, that we can't use that money to heal this old wound. I urge the advancement of 356.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. I'm pleased to take a moment to announce that Senator McFarland has a number of guests visiting this morning, both in the east balcony and the south balcony, 120 juniors and seniors from three high schools in Legislative District 28 here in Lincoln. Would you people please stand and be recognized the Legislature. Thank you. We're absolutely delighted that you could take the time to be with us this morning. Discussion on LB 356 as amended, Senator Korshoj, your light is on, followed by Senator Schmit.

SENATOR KORSHOJ: Mr. Speaker and members, I did vote to defeat the amendment. I think we've got to treat all of the institutions alike, but I, for one, at this time want to go on record and I would not support any interest payments. I think that both sides have got to be willing to give and I think we should discuss it right up front about that interest. I'm sure they feel they have it coming, and I know it's different. A bankruptcy court is a little different. You can request interest, but I don't know if they hardly ever pay any interest. I think the main topic here should be the principal. Haven't decided yet how I'm going to vote on it. I'm very soft on the