

been brought out earlier and mentioned by some of the supporters of this particular amendment. The intent is to provide money to the depositors of Commonwealth, to the depositors of State Security and American Savings. I served on the Banking Committee when we discussed that particular bill and I offered an amendment that provided for the funding money to be provided for American Savings and State Securities. And my intent at that time was to pass out of committee a bill that could be passed. It was my belief that there was not enough votes in this Legislature to provide reimbursement or moral obligation payments to the Commonwealth depositors. I still feel that way. I think that there should be some money paid on the basis of payments made prior to the Commonwealth depositors, to State Security and American Savings depositors. But, unfortunately, I believe unfortunately, Commonwealth depositors became a part of it. Their belief was that the only way that any money could be given out to State Security and American Savings was if they received what they viewed as their total reimbursement. Now the decision to make prior payments to Commonwealth was made on a basis of moral obligation. I think we have run through the issue of legal obligation to Commonwealth for years and years and years. I respect the senators from the Lincoln area that have carried the ball on this particular issue because a lot of constituents have been hammering on their doors and I think that most all of them very sincerely believe that payment should be made in an amount greater than the amount that we paid in previous years to the Commonwealth depositors. Unfortunately, I don't believe that the \$40 million that we're discussing here today to add onto LB 525 should be done. If this money was going to go into a rainy day fund to be...provide funding for the State of Nebraska at a time when our economy does have some financial problems, then I would be willing to support it. But this is not the case. This money is being earmarked for those depositors. I think that the Legislature had an opportunity to...more than ample opportunity to discuss the issue. A bill is still available for the next session for them to get the 25 votes together to get this large of an amount into next year's budget. I think if the votes are there, that's fine. But my concern is that this body will be confused as to what this funding will be provided for and I will not be supporting that particular amount for that particular reason.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Crosby, on the priority motion.