

please stand and take a bow. We are glad to have you. Thank you. Senator Schmit, would you care to discuss your amendment?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Yes, Mr. President and members, the amendment we offer here today is a reduction in the size of the fund which we discussed at some length last time. I want to emphasize again that there are a lot of unanswered questions on this bill, and there are a number of amendments that will be offered here today, some of which, of course, are probably not...have not even surfaced yet, but we originally thought we would have a \$10 million fund. At the present time, this amendment would lower that fund down to a minimum of two million and a maximum of five but where you have made a change in the obligations of the fund so that the obligated balance would have to be taken care of prior to the time we would stop the collections. So let me tell you what we are talking about. At the present time, the fund will be collected until we get \$5 million in the fund. If we begin to use the fund, we would use it down to \$2 million. That would become the base of the lowest point of funding the so-called cash reserve. If then we would have \$7 million of obligated claims against the fund, when the collections began again, we would collect up to \$9 million before we would stop collecting. So even though we have a \$5 million cap, so to speak, we would continue to collect until we have collected for the obligated balances. Now I believe that Senator Landis has an amendment which raises the minimum from 2 million to 3 million dollars and he has some reasons for that and some good ones and I am not going to discuss it here today at this time, but I want to point out that we felt that it was not necessary to have a \$10 million cash reserve there based upon the fact that we will collect for obligated balances. So what we have is a flexible maximum, and if there is a need for the fund, we collect it. If not, we would not collect it, and I believe that is a reasonable approach. I would hope that you would agree with me on that, and if there are questions, I would be glad to try to answer them.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. An amendment on the desk, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Warner would move to amend Senator Schmit's amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Warner.