

amendment addresses what may be the worthiest of all the projects that we've encountered this session. I just wish that we could have encountered it sooner. At any rate, over and over again I've tried to narrow my priority list, keeping the taxpayers always in mind because the same elderly who have not received their funds are also taxpayers. I have American Savings depositors in my home district, and I've sent detailed questionnaires to each of those people that I could identify. We need to remember that American Savings depositors and State Security depositors have received no state funds whatsoever. Now many of those questionnaires that I sent out have come in, and over one-half of those questionnaires that have been returned have comments to the effect that although they have not received their money, and they want their money, and would I please do what I can to get them their money, and I want to do that. Most of my depositors have received from 25 to 40 percent of their investment, not...over 70 percent of some of the supporters of LB 356 have stated these folks are concerned about the taxpayers. They don't know if the taxpayers should pick up the tab, and I'm just reading you their comment. They realize who will pay the cost will be themselves. Now Senator Scofield and Senator Pirsch said early in the season, and certainly Senator Hannibal has said in the middle of the season, and Senator Wehrbein and Senator Warner and the people around me have said now at the end of the season pick carefully what you want to support and what are your priorities. So I chose teachers' pay, and that's 40 million, and I chose property tax relief, and that's 98.2 million, and then I chose the income tax reduction and that will cut out 18 million, and then I decided to choose state aid to schools, and that's 18 million, and that is more money than I've ever seen in my entire life. I don't want to jeopardize the income tax reduction, and I'm afraid that that may happen, or that LB 84 will be jeopardized, or perhaps any of a number of things that Senator Bernard-Stevens was so good to mention to us. When we first voted on LB 356 I chose to be present and not voting because even then my heart said...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR BECK: ...yes to the American Savings and State Securities and even to the Commonwealth, but I wanted more information. And now I have it and my heart still says yes, but my head has to say no. I think that what we need to do is to make this bill a priority at the beginning of the session, the very beginning rather than at this point. And I could support