

behind closed doors in smoke-filled rooms, anything of any kind or nature whatsoever, I'd like to be involved in whatever kind of negotiations are going to take place. There is a tremendous difference in using the scalpel on a bill than using the meat-ax and when we start talking about matters of equity I think that there ought to be input from the maximum number of individuals. I understand, of course, that if the bill passes and it arrives at the Governor's desk, the prerogative of how it is treated there is hers and hers alone. But as one who has had a deep interest in this program for a long time, I volunteer my input for whatever it may be worth. And I can tell you very frankly that having negotiated a few 25-vote bills in the past, that it is easier to lose a vote than it is to gain one and we are not in a position where we have the luxury of treating this bill in a manner which is not considered to be equitable. I believe the depositors of Commonwealth have waited a long time and we would perhaps be guilty of the most cruel hoax of all to pass this bill without any funding. There are a number of programs which we have outlined here, most of which I have voted for, many of which can perhaps be put on the back burner for a year or a little longer. But the appropriation for Commonwealth and American Savings and State Securities, in my estimation, should have a very high priority in the matter of trying to make available funds reach to all corners of the budget. I say that also because I am deeply concerned that given some adjustments, rather some very fine-tuned adjustments in the taxing procedure that the funds may not be, may not be quite as available next year as they are today. And so for those of you who say that we may have to wait until next year, I want to caution you the needs will continue, be whatever...ever they come from, whether it's state salaries, whether it is university, whether it's the various aid programs or capital construction, but the likelihood of a continued super inflow to the treasury is not likely to continue forever and so I just want to say that I've heard all sorts of rumors floating around here this morning and in the words of former Senator Carpenter, I don't want any chicanery going on out here that I'm not a part of. So with that, I close.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Abboud, followed by Senators Lamb, Hefner and Warner.

SENATOR ABOUD: Yes, Mr. President, colleagues, well we're getting at the end of the session now and I think we all pretty much know that we're going to have to make some decisions on our