

budgetary matters. At the current time we will have to cut approximately \$55 million out of our budget in order to balance it. Now that \$55 million will most probably come in the form of vetoes. It may come in the form of some bills not being passed, 525 for example that is up next. There are some bills that we still are considering where we have a possibility of reducing our budget by \$55 million before the final day of the session. Should Commonwealth be a consideration in that \$55 million? I believe it should. It's a part of the budget, it's going to be an appropriation of approximately \$33.8 million and it's just as much a consideration as state aid or any other bill that we're going to be considering here in the final days. I think we're painting ourselves, as well as the Governor, into a box by not taking up this bill today. If I was the Governor of the State of Nebraska, I wouldn't return any vetoes. I would wait until we had the final budget. \$33.8 million is a lot of money. I think it's too much money to be viewed in light that it shouldn't be a consideration in the budget. As for passing this bill without the financial backing to support it, I think that would be once again a promise that the Legislature does not keep. If you're going to support this bill, fine. Get the 25 votes, pass the bill. The will of the majority stands. But don't pass a piece of legislation without the funding to it. I think we all realize that this has drug on for years and years and years and a conclusion is what we want to reach, be it a payment or a nonpayment. But a promise to the depositors of Commonwealth or American Security, or State Security or American Savings without the financial backing is a hollow promise and I hope the body does not take that approach. I understand sometimes the votes aren't there for a particular day and sometimes you want to wait a day or two or a month or a year. That's understandable, that's a part of the process, but at the same time we have to make some final decisions and those final decisions won't be made until Commonwealth is on the budget table as well.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President and members, I also rise to oppose the bracket motion. It seems to me that there are several reasons why this should not be bracketed and Senator Abboud has spelled out several of them that all these spending proposals should be on the Governor's desk at the same time so that the choice can be made. Beyond that, it seems to me...you know, I hear the rumors. I really don't have any input from anybody on