

depositors. We may as well admit and concede that there is no hope left and be done with it. If we do not make that commitment this year at a time when we have more money than we ever have had in the past, I do not believe that we will ever do so. I ask you, Mr. President, to perform as I have indicated on my motion, to bracket the bill for a time certain as of now and to read the bill and vote upon it immediately. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Landis, your light is on, followed by Senator Wesely.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, there is so very much of what Senator Schmit says that I agree with, that it is hard to rise and point out a difference at what seems to be the rind of the fruit, not the pulp, not the heart of it, because I listened to Senator Schmit and I hear him express the frustration that I have, at this body and its inability to fashion fair remedy to Commonwealth depositors. I hear that anger that says, why hasn't it happened by now? Why haven't we already done it? Why haven't we done it this year if we have the money? And on that score I agree 100 percent. The question is, what do you do, what do you do when the supporters of the bill, the lobbyists for the bill, the analysts for the bill say we don't have the votes? Senator Schmit's notion, I think is, let the chips fall where they may, put the body on the record. I understand and find great allure in that option because I, too, think that there is a difficulty and a painfulness in having this issue remain unresolved but tantalizingly available to the body and heartbreakingly close but never secure for the depositors. That is a burden that we all bear. For myself I choose an oriental guerrilla fighter's words of advice. When your opponent outnumbered you, retreat; when your opponent pursues you, evade; when you are stronger than your opponent, attack. And at this point, a little diversion, a little evasiveness is what is going to keep this bill alive. It's only, I think, a guess. I've asked Senator Schmit if he thinks that there are for some reason a change in the conditions. He's not sure. I'm not sure. I don't have a reason to believe that they are different and the funny thing is, here are two people who want nothing more and have no higher priority this session, as Senator Schmit and I do, than to pay off Commonwealth and to find that we oppose the method of trying to achieve that end. I wished we saw this procedural opportunity this...this crevice, this crevasse that we're at now and have a difficult time