

offered can find people coming down on one side or the other. I don't believe there is any statement which can be made about any subject which will not allow for statements on the opposite side to be made, so we're going to have an argument whenever a serious matter is before us and especially when that matter in the Legislature involves the appropriation and spending of money. If there is such a thing as ethics in government, if there is such a thing as morality in the collective act of a Legislature, this that we're looking at in terms of the Commonwealth and other depositors would fall into those categories. What is right to do is not difficult to determine. Whether or not we have the stomach to do it is where I think the rub comes. We know that if there were a member of our family, a close friend or ourselves, personally, who were situated in a situation that was described as a crisis, we would want whatever help could be rendered to rectify or alleviate that condition. I'm not aware of anybody in Omaha, I mean personally, who has money or had money in Commonwealth. I don't know personally, as a friend, anybody in Lincoln or any place else. I've talked to a number of people since this thing occurred so I can say I know who some of them are, but my reason in voting in favor of this has nothing to do with personal friendship or any attitude I have towards some of, I call them the "Commonwealthians". As a matter of fact, if I were to react to some of the scurrilous mail and phone I have gotten from people who lost money in Commonwealth, and I was the one who supported them from the very beginning, I would say, a plague upon all of you, but that is not the right thing to do, it's not appropriate. If person A is similarly situated to person B and person A does something to irritate or annoy me, that does not justify me in harming person B who happens to be similarly situated. At this juncture, I think we should be able to look beyond any activities that may have occurred that could have seemed annoying or irritating because if we look at the situation that those people face...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...they have behaved in a way that maybe most of us would have behaved were we similarly situated. The question for me is not how the people who have been harmed have gone about trying to correct the situation. The question for me is what my responsibility as an elected official of this state is and I see my responsibility as doing all that is within our power as a Legislature to make those people whole, so I will