

SPEAKER BARRETT: Discussion on the Schmit amendment, Senator Landis, your light is on.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, having been repudiated in this last vote, I won't take the time of the body since their will is clear and I'll allow the body to do its will in this case. I will say this. Having made the attempt at the amendment and to have it unsuccessfully fail to pass muster, I will vote against the Schmit amendment. I don't necessarily encourage you to do the like. You are certainly free to make up your own mind. I have, on the other hand, just one personal observation to make. I don't think there hasn't been one of us who I have found to say at different times that they have found that the lobby is very powerful, and frankly, the lobby is very, very powerful, there is no doubt about it. But we fail to make lines among ourselves which would assist us in demanding higher accountability from the lobby. When, on this kind of an occasion, we don't say we're prepared to be reasonable, but we're not prepared to give away the farm without a good explanation. I was listening as hard as I could, but I'll tell you if a case was made for \$600 million here, I didn't hear it. If that \$600 million was in our budget and we were going to spend it and our names were on it, I think it would have gone much more significantly in the debate. Power creates privilege and in this case I think privilege is exercised when the Legislature is prepared to defer in its judgment on this kind of an issue without a thorough accounting which I think we lacked in this case and most importantly, we lacked sharing in the decision. We weren't part of the compromise, we weren't part of the discussion in the Rotunda, we weren't part of the discussion between the IBA and FirstTier. All that happened was Tuesday morning we came, got our orders and we marched. The time will come when you're frustrated, too, when the body marches to the tune of the lobby and, frankly, I guess it's just going to continue to happen because we are unable to muster the desire to draw a clear message, a clear line in the sand that says, we will be reckoned with, we will be accounted for, we will be part of these discussions. I'll be voting against the Schmit amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Schmit, followed by Senator Warner.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members, Senator Landis makes an excellent point and he has outlined what happens all too