

SENATOR SMITH: All right, I am preparing just a one-word amendment to do that or two-word, whatever it takes to fill that in there, and then going down, I think what we are doing here, lines 19 through 23, basically, where you are talking about, and we haven't had time to find out what Article I, Sections 16 through 25 refers to, exactly, but Article III, Section 18, and I just want everyone on the floor to know what this is. We would remove the prohibition against special legislation, and Article VIII, Section 3 removes the prohibition against extension of credit by the state which, in effect, would leave the door open to reimburse Commonwealth depositors, is that correct?

SENATOR HALL: That is one possibility.

SENATOR SMITH: So that is just a choice the people in the body have to make here because we have talked about this before on General File, and I was opposed to it at that time because I didn't want to put...and I think you are going around that, Senator Hall, by doing this instead of physically stating that, and that is okay. What I am just saying is that it would be up to the people to decide, do you want to or do you not want to have this included in the constitutional provision? We do know that we have had an Attorney General's opinion on this issue, has not said you could not do this, you could not reimburse, but from the opinion, the impression is that it would be very hard to define the three failed institutions in such a way that you would not exclude some depositors without naming them specifically in the amendment. And I guess I am still not comfortable with that, but I am just going to let people decide for themselves what they want to do with that part of your amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Smith. Senator Will.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. Senator Hall has brought us an intriguing concept here in the form of this amendment, and, essentially, he is saying...Senator Hall, would you answer a question or two?

SENATOR HALL: I would, surely.

SENATOR WILL: Senator Hall, in general here, your purpose would be to constitutionally segregate lottery funds, is that correct,