

first let the people tell us do you or do you not want one, and that is what the intent was. So we, then, after every time we brought this bill up, there has been an issue with Commonwealth on this one, as it has with many other things throughout the seven years I have been here. But it was finally...there were a number of us that decided that we would allow this to happen if it was a separate issue on the ballot, and by being a separate issue, the people can vote on the two issues, not combined. You know the letter that we got in the mail the other day just also really irritates me. A number of statements that were made in this letter, they talk about the final fraud is about to be committed against the Commonwealth depositors. Every depositor knows it, every depositor knows who is going to do it to them this time. We have met the enemy and it is our legislators. Twenty-seven legislators in here, some of them begrudgingly, voted to allow this to finally be set to rest because we have been told that nothing else would work for those people. So we finally said, okay, we are going to go ahead, we don't want this to be with it but we will allow it to be attached to this issue. Now this doesn't satisfy. I have come to the conclusion that nothing will seem to satisfy these people. You know there is a point where you talk about sympathy, but the sympathy becomes very, very stretched thin by the attitude of the people that you are trying to help. As I said, I am not going to stand and we are not going to argue, as far as I am concerned, long, because we have heard this thing for seven years, at least the seven years I have been here. We all know the issue. I am telling you that we have, and they know if they were out there listening, which I suppose they were all the time, the reason it was separated was because we don't want this to be in the Constitution as a part of the whole thing that goes along with the lottery together. So we gave them this shot, and when they say on the last page that they don't want it, maybe the best thing is, Senator Schmit, that, yes, we take them out. They say on the last page, they summarize the whole issue, and they, themselves, say that what we want to do is have it taken out, have it settled in another way, so maybe that is what we ought to do, and I have an amendment ready to go, just like Senator Schmit does, which would remove all language dealing with the reimbursement of Commonwealth depositors, if that is literally what they want. I would be much happier. I am going to leave it up to the will of the body here, but I am telling you, I have got this amendment, and if this goes on, I will put my amendment up there and I will do everything I can just to get them out of there. I would like to give the remaining time that I have left