

in and his constituents are finding themselves in. If there was a nuclear power plant in my district I certainly would be very concerned and I know the residents of my district would be very concerned to make sure that that plant was not dangerous and that it was being properly monitored. I think the Health Department has a radiological control division. It is the appropriate entity to do this. The Department of Environmental Control does not have such a division or does not have the years of experience the Department of Health does. So I think it's very appropriate that the funds go in there. As to Senator Kelly's concern that the private power company, Iowa Power and Light being let off the hook on some expenses, that may be true. I think the mistake was when we allowed N.P.P.D. to join with a private company in the first place to build a power plant. I think we certainly should prevent that from ever happening again, but the issue we're facing right now is a very real one to the people in Senator George's district and I know that we've had other arguments about other types of wastes facilities in Omaha and people were saying well those are all being adequately checked but Senators would stand up and say, but in my district they're not satisfied and that's what Senator George is saying. I think this is a small amount of money to get some peace of mind for those residents along the Missouri River which includes Omaha which draws the water from the Missouri River to make sure that the plants are safe, there is not any undue or harmful release of radiation. It's a small investment considering the amount of harm that could be done if this is not properly monitored. So I would hope that the Senators across the state would be sympathetic to the situation that Senator George finds himself in and the effort he is making for his district.

PRESIDENT: Senator Merz.

SENATOR MERZ: Mr. President, members of the body, I'd like to ask Senator Kelly a question.

SENATOR KELLY: Yes.

SENATOR MERZ: You stated that this would be using state funds to support this?

SENATOR KELLY: Iowa Power and Light of Des Moines, Iowa, is a fifty percent owner of the Cooper Station at Brownsville. If we take over the monitoring task of Cooper on the tax rolls, that will reduce the cost to Iowa Power and Light, a private owned utility.

SENATOR MERZ: We aren't taking this over the way I understand it. We're just putting a police force here to protect ourselves.

SENATOR KELLY: The citizens of Nebraska will be spending approximately \$40,000 and a fourth of that is going to go directly to Iowa Power and Light.

SENATOR MERZ: Go directly to them?

SENATOR KELLY: To their benefit, that's correct.

SENATOR MERZ: I thought this was to protect our own benefits. Also you stated we're using state funds for this. Don't we use state funds for Public Health and Welfare to test all the waters in Nebraska?