

SENATOR MOORE: Yes, Madam President and members, I rise I guess to use Senator Johnson's amendment to ask him some questions, to begin with, if Senator Johnson would so yield.

PRESIDENT MOORE: Senator Johnson.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Yes, ma'am.

SENATOR MOORE: Senator Johnson, I have followed through the press and given my experience I'm always anxious to ask questions directly instead of using that as the gospel, but there has been a discussion between Governor Nelson and yourself in regards to a report of the financial impact of the state if it would, indeed, if this bill would pass, folks in Boyd County would vote not to build and the state would back out. Do you have an idea what the financial impact is there at this time? Senator Johnson, have you ever been made privy to that report?

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Senator Moore, I appreciate the question because the answer is, no, we have not been privy to any reports to date. We did send a letter early on back in February and we're passing around a packet of information that's sort of the history of this request for the report back in February and, in fact, I was just doing an interview with Paul Hammel with the World-Herald just moments ago. He asked me if I had gotten any report and I said we still had not received that report even though several times the Governor has either indicated to me privately or in the person of Mr. Hammel that he would get us some kind of report or some kind of figures to give us a direction financially as to where we go if community consent is not granted, or if the deciding process is...fails to for any other reason other than on technical merits or demerits in the case of not licensure of the site. So the answer, Senator Moore, is we do not know. We are functioning very much in the dark as far as how much or how little we might face in fines and penalties and lawsuits from affected parties by our failure to advance the project as well as the increased costs that might come to our ratepayers by developing alternative means of addressing the disposal of low-level waste in Nebraska such as on site storage on the two nuclear facilities in Nebraska.

SENATOR MOORE: Well, thank you, Senator Johnson. I guess I would first like to just voice a concern about that report not being released as, obviously, I'm of the opinion and I remember certain people running for election accusing others of using