

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

March 30, 1999 LB 530

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Senator Kristensen, will you yield?

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: I think what you're asking is, what is the absolute worst that could happen to us if we were expelled or if they were successful in their injunction suit.

SENATOR TYSON: Worst scenario, yes.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Worst scenario, I don't think there is a top end number. I...it would be, oh, it would be the damage that those other states would have for the transportation and storage of low-level nuclear waste for...and I want to say 50 years, but I...that's off the top of my head, but it's a substantial number of years. What is that number? I don't know what the cost would be because it depends on what the cost those other sites store, easily hundreds of millions of dollars.

SENATOR TYSON: Thank you. Not having a good number, not knowing, in other words, when you go into something you should know what the consequences are and I think it's apparent that right now we don't, and it may not be known for years and years. However, it was a bad deal to start with. I'm sure there's plenty of blame, if you want to assign blame, and it's too late and it serves no purpose to do that. I think, though, with all of that having been said, it is something that we should do. We should get out. We should pass this bill and I urge every member here to do so. Thank you.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. President, members. First of all, I want to speak to this issue. I support the bill but I find myself, if I look back, I argued strongly not to do this a few years ago. In fact, for several this was an issue before I came into the body and I guess it's not worthwhile to go back and dig up why we did this. I firmly believe we were misled years ago. Started at the federal level. Obviously, things change, technology changes, so perhaps there's...there's some excuse for that. I, too, like Senator Landis, want to resolve that you don't do these things again or regularly. We...we...these are expensive mistakes, if it's what this turned out to be. I