

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

May 17, 2001

LB 172, 841

before I was ever a member of the body, I remember when Senator Beutler, I was just an outside observer following what was going on and Senator Beutler was laboring mightily to keep us from joining an inter...a Low-Level Nuclear Waste Interstate Compact. And he kept saying, don't do it, number one, and number two; if you do do it, Nebraska will end up as the site. And we just went merrily along because we said, oh, well, the Governor will negotiate a good contract and it will all be fine, and we'll get to review it, et cetera, et cetera. Well, we entered into the compact; Nebraska was picked; we negotiated the contract, and I said, what's that going to cost us, \$98 million? I'd just like to show...slow this down a little bit, not because Senator Wickersham isn't doing what he's supposed to be doing; of course he's doing what he's supposed to be doing, he's trying to bring us into the twenty-first century. Good. Let's try and drag the tax base along with us. In fact, I was sitting here wondering if we could...there's a bill in Revenue, in the Revenue Committee, called LB 841, I was thinking maybe we could amend it, if not on General File, maybe on Select File and that would help modernize this a little bit. I'm just not comfortable with the fact that we're going to delegate to the Governor and then we're going to try and clean up the contract after the fact. Because once you enter into the negotiations, you've already established the parameters within which the deal will be made. And I'm not certain we're in a position to go there. I...I believe in the old adage, when in doubt, don't. It seems to me we've been content to go it alone with a narrow tax base, not worrying much about the future for a long time. I'm not certain we shouldn't go another year or two, until we know where we're going. We could go it alone a little longer, preserving our fierce independence and our conservatism and doing...not doing what anybody else is doing. And by not signing...entering into this agreement, then we won't make a mistake for which we'll be sorry. I'm...I'm not convinced. I'm only one vote, but I'm not convinced. This is...I'm just not compelled. We might be saving a little bit or catching up to a little bit of revenue...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: One minute.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: ...and we might find ourselves not where we want to be in terms of a lot of revenue. With that, I'd yield