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FLOOR DEBATE

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create a statute that will separate Nebraska from the rest of the nation in a federally preempted industry. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Mr. Speaker. Members, if Senator Pederson would yield to a question.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Pederson, would you respond?

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Be glad to.

SENATOR SMITH: Yesterday, I believe that there was some dialogue about the spill that occurred in Scottsbluff.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Yes.

SENATOR SMITH: I was distracted a bit. Could you repeat that? In concept form is fine with me.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Yeah. I was referring to a spill that was reported in the Scottsbluff Star-Herald, dated November 15, 2000. The incident occurred when a derailment of 18 cars of a 79-car train, including 8 tankers, on the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad spilled 80 to 100 thousand gallons of low-grade gasoline containing benzene. And it went on to say that it...essentially that it...that it created quite a concern in a large radius and that benzene is one of these things that can be very harmful to an individual, either by touching or by...by inhalation, and that the concern that was expressed in the Star-Herald had to do with the fact that it wasn't reported as quickly as perhaps it should have been to evacuate the people from that area. And the point was that spills do take place and that we need somebody there to report them.

SENATOR SMITH: And what was that article dated?

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: It was dated November 15, 2000.

SENATOR SMITH: Okay. I do want to correct the record and...