

million mistakes. I just really regret that he wasn't here sooner because I certainly could have used his advice and counsel many times in the last 10 years. I appreciate his sincerity and his honesty and his intensity. I appreciate the good intentions of all of you. I recognize that this is not an easy bill to address. I plead guilty to all of the charges that have been leveled against me by those individuals on the floor and off the floor over the last number of years, if it will make you feel any better. One point that I will not plead guilty to is that I do not have the assumption, I do not have the same kind of compassion for the people of the State of Nebraska that those of you who have opposed this bill profess to have. Ladies and gentlemen, there have been thousands of hours of conscientious effort made by members of this Legislature and made by members outside of this Legislature whose efforts have finally put together a bill which I think will work. It's not perfect. I never claimed it would be perfect. I never told you it would be perfect. I have admonished you time and time and again that this will always be subject to amendment, this legislation will be a continuing piece of work, that, as time develops, new and better methods for providing for the safety of the people of Nebraska, I would be the first to accept those ideas. I will not agree to accept those ideas which I believe not to be sound and I regret very much that we have differences of opinion but that's the way the ball rolls. Today, some of you agreed with me, most of the time you did, and some of you agreed some of the times with the opponents of the bill. That's the way the system works. I am really disappointed, from time to time, however, that during the course of the process we become so locked in that we refuse to accept or acknowledge the fact that others have conscientiously worked on this bill. It was not easy 10 years ago when we started down that road. There were many times that each of us wished we did not have to face up to the challenge. I recall visiting with Governor Kerrey about the bill on a number of occasions and he remembered...or reminded me that none of us were here when the decision was made to build the nuclear plants. Governor Kerrey did what he thought had to be done when he signed the bill. Governor Orr inherited the problem and Governor Orr has probably taken more abuse over this bill, undeserved abuse, than any other single piece of legislation that has come down the road since she has been Governor. Governor Orr inherited the problem that we delivered to her and she made the best of it. Of course, she made some statements from time to time which today come back and time after time after time in what I consider to be a most