

March 5, 1990

Senator Kristensen, may very well vote against it, or not vote for it at all, not because of any personal animosity toward Mr. Thorson, not because he doesn't lack qualifications, although I sometimes think just because one has educational qualifications doesn't ensure that they're going to do a good job in a particular position, but just because the whole process that has been implemented here at the behest of US Ecology, the Department of Environmental Control, the Governor's office, and the public utilities in other states who have had the power and the money and the influence to get this measure enacted and on its way in Nebraska. I think there are a lot of misconceptions out there, and I think a lot of questions that have not been answered. I would like to just pose two questions that I would like, at some time, answered for me. We hear considerable discussion about how safe this facility will be, or how it's only low-level waste, and that's not dangerous waste, or how the engineers proposed to build the facility and it will be a perfectly safe and stable facility, you don't need to worry about any leakage or any possible accident or any possible problem. If all of that is true, answer me one question. Why can't you get insurance on the facility? Why is there now no insurance company, to my knowledge, that is willing to insure any nuclear waste site dump in our country? My understanding is that the only insurance...there is only one out there that will insure these type of facilities, and that will only insure it on a limit of \$25 million, and that 25 million dollar limitation will only apply to the surrounding area, it will not apply to the dump itself and the cleanup that might be involved at that dump, that the state would have to pick up, if there indeed is leak...if there is an accident, if there is a problem with the construction of the facility. We, in Nebraska, require people to go out and insure their cars, it's a condition of getting your car registered that you have insurance, because if there is a risk of an accident, we want the other person, if they're at fault in the accident, to be insured and to pay for any injuries that we may sustain while we're driving our own automobiles. And, of course, there is a risk of accidents, and it is insurable, and people can get insurance to cover those risks. But why, if the nuclear waste site dump is going to be so safe and no problems with it, why can't we get insurance on it or, if we can get insurance, why can't we get adequate coverage on that insurance?

PRESIDENT: One minute.