

important that we recognize that at some time we have to determine just how much of a cost is involved in some of this federal activity. We have, as Senator Morrissey said, undergone a series of deep discussions relative to past orders of the federal government. This, in itself, is another example of an agency coming into Nebraska and deciding what will happen to a major water resource. A 162,000 acre feet of water, as I understand it, will be discharged for this purpose and I find no way that anyone can assure that the water will ever reach the point where it is determined to be needed, no matter how they release it. It is sort of like this morning, I believe, Martin Marietta is looking for their lost missile, and it is a little bit the same way. How they are going to hit those seven least tern nesting areas at Grand Island by releasing that water at McConaughy has not yet been determined. But I want to make one additional point. The relicensing application process has been going on for several years. I have been told that more than \$11 million has been spent on this relicense application and there have been proposals to spend additional tens of millions of dollars to guarantee certain wildlife and instream flow benefits. I want to emphasize that I have no objection to enhancement of the wildlife and the fish species of Nebraska. I have been told, and if it is not true, someone can correct me, but I have been told that until McConaughy was there, there were no least tern nesting areas at all on the Platte. Now we have a few and they want to enhance them. It seems somewhat ironic that the very structure which allowed the least tern to locate on the Platte now is being required to provide additional habitat as if man could regulate it better than the least tern, themselves. In addition to that, we have stood on this floor for the last 50 days, approximately, and have spent most of our time debating monetary issues. How many times have we on this floor argued over this amount of money? Not very often. We don't even get up into that kind of money, but by virtue of the fact that we have attorneys who have delayed this relicensing in Washington, \$11 million has been spent, in excess of that, and we have not yet reached a conclusion. I would suggest that there will be many more millions of dollars before the license is issued and then there will be additional millions of dollars of expense that will be incurred by the Central Platte and NPPD in order to satisfy certain wildlife concerns. I think the public ought to know that those costs are there. If they want to pay them, that is their decision, and it may be a very logical decision and it may be a wise one, but it ought not to be hidden in the light bill. It ought not to be covered up in