

February 27, 1991 LB 837

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Johnson.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Madam President, members, this is an extremely important bill in the issue of the Low-Level Nuclear Waste Compact and the parties involved. And the committee amendment, this is a bill that was introduced by the Governor. He and his office, and the generators, and the compact, and the commission, and U.S. Ecology and all parties involved here have been very cooperative in trying to develop a compromise, if you will, on the issue of shared liability, as well as some other points that I'll cover. I would add that this is a bill that has come out of the committee with the unanimous approval of the Natural Resources Committee, and I might add is a bill that has been already introduced by Governor Clinton, in Arkansas, and has passed the Arkansas Senate. It is being heard, I believe today, in the Arkansas House. But this bill cannot be amended, because we have given this language, this very language to the other states, and it is important that we keep this bill clean, especially in the area of shared liability, because, as I will point out, there are points to this that need to remain consistent in all of the states. First of all, the committee amendments start off, and I put a summary, I had a summary sent around to your desk, and if you'd like to follow along I'll try and cover them very quickly, and then I'll turn the remainder of my time to Senator Beutler, if he'd like to comment, because he is actually carrying the bill for Governor Nelson. The first part of the summary starts with the issue of denying access to any party, state that does not adopt this legislation. Secondly, it provides for two new members from Nebraska, since we are the host state at this point, first of all, one that will be a voting member on the Compact Commission; the second will be a nonvoting member from the host county, which at this point is Boyd County. Secondly, the...all compact business shall be conducted consistent with open meetings and open record provisions of the host state, again which is Nebraska. And, secondly...or third, the host state will establish fees, and this is an important point. And you can see that there are a variety of anticipated expenditures developing reasonable reserves in order for the host state to operate this facility. And it also sets up a 120-day notice, before the fees are adopted, for comments by the other states and generators of waste. On the next page, or on the back side of your handout covers the issue of shared liability and what we will need from the other states as far as shared liability, as well as what