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LB 783

because we know the good State of Nebraska will come in and effectively buy this line and they will use it; and we then become the guarantors of rail lines and we give the railroads the opportunity to dump their lower lines at our risk and our expense and our burden? Could you...could you help me with that policy?

SENATOR LAMB: Yes.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Because that's one I haven't been able to answer myself.

SENATOR LAMB: It's not a given that that would happen because there is going to be this commission, eight members appointed by the Governor, and they are going to look at these in a businesslike...their charge in the bill is to look at the situation in a businesslike manner so that the state is not put in the railroad business. All it is doing is facilitating keeping those lines open. And if the...if the company wants to downgrade, they do that now. You and I very well know...

SPEAKER BAACK: Time.

SENATOR LAMB: ...if they want to downgrade it, they do it so that they can be eligible for abandonment.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Kristensen, your light is on again. Did you wish to continue this?

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Just if I can get Senator Lamb to finish on this. And I...one of the other policy issues that has bothered me and that I know that...and I'm probably going to vote this along today, but I'm a little uncomfortable with some of the policy issues and I know that you're working on the funding which is essential for it. But what happens if we do get this line, we sink a lot of money into it? The estimates are \$12 million to revitalize it, but we have seen some other studies or some other guesstimates and maybe just plain costs of doing it, and instead of spending \$12 million, we spend \$40 million and it requires a lot more money. What sort...I mean, I guess, I'm going into waters that I don't know about, and from a state policy point of view, not looking at the need to do it but looking from the policy because Senator Johnson, Senator Coordsen and I, there's going to be a variety of others who may have rail lines in the exact same spot, what guarantees