

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Rod Johnson, would you respond, please.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Johnson, what is there that ensures that the present definition of low-level waste will always remain unchanged?

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Senator, I'm assuming that low-level waste definition is done on the federal level.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: No, I'm not asking who does it, I'm asking what guarantee is there that it will never change?

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: I don't...I don't...Senator, I can't answer the question. I'm not sure that there...I can give you a guarantee.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Right, you can't, nor can I. So, if the definition is changed, a more dangerous substance could be included in that definition, at the federal level, and this facility would have to receive it. Would you agree, if that occurred?

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Well, obviously, it would take federal action to change the definition of low-level. I don't anticipate that happening, but then again I can't bind the hands of Congress.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Now, I said I was going to leave you alone. Did you anticipate this theft that occurred?

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: No, Senator.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I'm glad to hear you say that. If we were...if we were able to anticipate untoward events, we could take...thank you, Senator Johnson...we could take steps to prevent them. But the fact that the federal government, has imposed this system of establishing these facilities, when there are indications that it's a poor system, but it's going to be pushed forward anyway, we're not in any position to feel comfortable that the definition of low-level nuclear waste will not be altered to allow what we would feel is a high level. And if that definition is altered, anything encompassed in that