

anybody. I would like to think that those votes were sincere votes and that nothing like that that was suggested yesterday in the form of a cruel hoax could actually take place. I think that possibly if there were a cruel hoax that took place here, it also...it happened years ago and was done by the Compact Commission and US Ecology. So I would just take exception to that statement and think that this sort of thing couldn't happen in this legislative body. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Dierks. Senator Elmer.

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you, Madam President. What we're doing here perhaps may have some questions to be answered. What happens to the ownership of the property at the end of the 30-year period? Are there any regulations or laws out there that may be in conflict, as the Governor suggests? It will probably be a week or more before we address this item on Select File which should be sufficient time for the people involved to do some investigation and ask for any changes that might be required prior to Select File. I'm much more comfortable with the language that we are proposing as to our state liability. Senator Morrissey's amendment to the amendment, I'm not quite as sure about as far as legality and everything is concerned, but, as I say, if we can do this with the land, certainly it's logical that the same thing applies to the radioactive material itself, at least during the period of time while the site is operational. And I would support his amendment with the caveat that if we do need to make some minor adjustments, I and Senator Morrissey will get together, if that's okay with Senator Morrissey, between now and Select File, to discuss any of these changes that might be required. At this point, given that closure is 30...30 years away, I don't believe that he or I or Senator Johnson or Senator Dierks are going to be able to see what the framework of regulations are going to be 30 years away in any case. So we want to be covered during the 30 years that it's operational and I think we're going to go a long ways toward doing that with these two amendments. As far as the liability issues are concerned, part of the...part of the protection is in place for post closure and it's a fund that would build to a \$100 million during the operation of the facility. If during...after closure there is a problem, that \$100 million would be spent first. The next liable party would become US Ecology and its parent corporations. If their resources were exhausted, then the liability would fall on all the generators in five states, which are the power generators,