

February 18, 1992 LB 1061

there. We just heard this morning where chemical companies paid approximately \$11 million for the cleanup of the old Allied plant on the Iowa side of the river. My question is this, number one, has there been an assessment made of any possible environmental problems at the Ak-Sar-Ben field? Number two, if there has been and it is clear and clean, that is fine, but if it is not, who will accept the responsibility for the costs of the cleanup? Will it be the present Ak-Sar-Ben organization, or will it be Douglas County? Question number three, in the event that a private operator is involved in the operation of the facility for Douglas County, will the private operator have any responsibility for cleanup in the event that contamination is discovered after the fact, and, in fact, once the facility has been transferred and it is in operation under private management? Senator Will, if you could answer those questions, I would appreciate it. If not, perhaps someone else can do so.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Will.

SENATOR WILL: Yes, Senator Schmit, I'll give you an answer to the best of my ability right now. I know the county went through an extensive study of the...of the property and of the...the economic feasibility of the...of the take-over of Ak-Sar-Ben. I do not know specifically that they did an environmental impact study. I'm sure we can find out that information quite quickly. As far as responsibility for anything that is found, I suppose that would depend on the details of what's found, of who would be found responsible, you know, in the end. I don't have a clear-cut answer to that question at this time.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Will. Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: I would just suggest that those of you who are from Douglas County, knowing your sincere interest in monitoring costs that accrue to your county, might want to pursue this just a bit, because we have discovered, to our chagrin, time, after time, across the State of Nebraska and particularly in the Omaha area problems like this that have developed and have proven to be extremely costly. There is a concern also, I think, that we need to recognize, and that is that perhaps in some instances where...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.