

bill. (See FA342 on page 1747 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, the amendment that I am proposing is before you. It should have been passed out to you shortly before. My basic feeling on the matter at this point I suppose has not changed much from my feeling of a year ago, and that is, basically, that I have, one, a great deal of sympathy for the residents of Boyd County, a great deal of unhappiness about the way this whole matter was handled, a great deal of regret that administrators, prior government officials, maybe even the Governor of this state gave some indications of a community consent provision, but when all is said and done, I can never think my way around the fact that if this bill passes, we are on the road to chaos. I can never get around the intellectual fact that if you accept nuclear power, then you have to accept the responsibility of what you are going to do with the waste. There has never been a good answer to those questions to me. So I have tried to think also what constructively can and should be done to protect the people of this state, and, in particular, to protect the people of Boyd County? What can we do that is positive? What can I do that is positive that does not involve voting for community consent, and I have thought in my mind for sometime now that there are at least two things. One, we have to make sure that the other states in the compact enact the shared liability amendments that this Legislature enacted last year. That is their obligation. It is a fair request, and we should do as much as we can to see that that gets done. The second thing that I have given a lot of thought to and I decided I can do this next year, and that is to be sure that the liability provisions of the State of Nebraska that apply to the state as a governmental subdivision are on a strict liability standard. So that in the end, the State of Nebraska stands behind any problems that may be caused, personal damage or property damage that may be caused to the people of Boyd County. That can wait until next year. What this amendment does is this. One, it strikes the existing provisions of the bill. It strikes the community consent vote provisions, and in the place of that, it substitutes a provision which basically says that we are not proceeding with licensing in this state, we are not approving final licensing in this state until all the compact states have enacted the latest amendments to the compact which deal mostly with the issue of shared liability. I think that is something very constructive