

SPEAKER BAACK: Time.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: I would leave that for you to answer.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Rod Johnson. Senator Coordsen, you are next.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. I recall a number of editorials, quite recently, when people, members of the Legislature, were called upon by the editorial writers to not represent rural Nebraska, not represent urban Nebraska, but to come forward and be statesmen and stateswomen for the good of the state. A number of years ago present on the floor of the body, there was a great deal of uncertainty until the three area, the three sites were designated, and then you could almost have blown the windows out, I think, with a sigh of collective relief that went out from most of my rural colleagues. This has never been an issue for those of us with urban constituencies because you knew that there was never going to be a site located at 84th and Center in Omaha, nor was there ever going to be a site located at 27th and "O" in Lincoln, or any of the other metropolitan areas. This, as a matter of fact, became another burden that someplace in Nebraska outside of the cities, wherever it was geologically feasible, some people were going to be impacted on it, by it. I have supported community consent throughout the system, and continue to do today. Again, I would repeat what I have said some years in the past, and it has nothing to do with any fear of radioactivity or any of those things. Senator Johnson was true in saying that probably our solid waste sites are going to present more real environmental danger than what this does, but it has been a tradition in civilization to put your coal-fired generating plant, to put your landfill, to put whatever the services are that serve population centers someplace where you don't have to look at them, where you don't have to live with the service trucks, whatever, where you don't have to put up with the downside of a good useful service. I believe that community consent would not result in Nebraska not being the host state, but I do believe that community consent would provide a much better mechanism of addressing the concerns of those people who live in this area, have lived in any given area prior to the designation of that as a site, and if nothing else, give them the opportunity to become part of the group that will receive some of the... a substantial financial gain to be had by having this, whether it is an area where we are now talking, or the low-level site which has to all