

committee amendments.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Committee amendments are adopted. Senator Landis, to open on the bill.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, Madam President, members of the Legislature, I'm going to talk a little bit generally about this area, then I'm going to offer an amendment which will be basically a rewriting of the bill, consisting...with a set of discussions I've had with utility industry members over the summer and culminating actually in information this morning that the utilities were willing to accept the language that I'll be offering as an amendment in just a second. Nebraska is a main rail line connecting the eastern section of the country, in which 90 percent of spent high-level nuclear waste, that is to say the spent rods of reactors in power plants, will be sent to the west where it's projected they will be housed in perpetuity, perhaps in Yucca Flats, perhaps in the temporary repositories that will be considered in New Mexico that could open as early as 1998. There is a federal regime of regulation for nuclear occurrences. It's the Price-Anderson Act. And that act outlines the creation of a pool of money that can be used to pay claims, the contributions by all of the utilities into that pool, and the standards by which that pool then is accessed for an extraordinary nuclear occurrence. There is a specific set of radiation doses that if those doses become an occurrence, if those doses occur because of some kind of accident and those doses are met, then anybody injured by that kind of a reaction or some kind of exposure to it can sue and get recovery. The extraordinary nuclear occurrence is not the only kind of nuclear occurrence that can occur. You can have an exposure that does not constitute an ENO, or an extraordinary nuclear occurrence. The language of 750 will basically be aimed at this situation, the nonextraordinary nuclear occurrence. Why? Because the extraordinary nuclear occurrence is rather clearly dealt with by federal law. However, an exposure to nuclear radiation that does not rise to that level has a somewhat tenuous relationship with Price-Anderson. We're not exactly sure what that relationship is. We will be clearer once the amendment is adopted and the bill is advanced. As a matter of fact, this is how I see our relationship being to the Price-Anderson situation if we were to adopt the amendment that is on the Clerk's desk and will be offered in a moment to 750. For a nuclear occurrence less than an extraordinary nuclear occurrence, there