

January 19, 1996 LB 750

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Time.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Landis, your light is next.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you. I'll withdraw my light, I was going to use that to explain, but Senator Wehrbein was kind enough to give me his.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Landis. Senator Wehrbein. Senator Preister.

SENATOR PREISTER: Thank you, Honorable President, friends all. I appreciate Senator Landis' introduction of this bill. I did not introduce it myself but felt it important enough that in the last session I did designate it as my priority bill. The bill was not fully heard in the last session and that's why we have it before us again today. I think that Senator Landis did a very good job of explanation and in clear terms. And being an attorney, he certainly understands some of the legal parameters far better than I. The amendment that he has offered and that we now have before us is one that I'm going to support. My heart is not fully in it. I think that the amendment has made some changes that, and the dose limits aspect that Senator Landis explains I think does set a standard. It would continue to be my preference that we would have the strict liability, that there would not have to be the proof of...can't think of the word, but it would, I think, make the legal process easier. And the reason that I'm concerned about that is that if we do site a site in Yucca Mountain, if the amount of spent nuclear fuel rods that is currently stored, and most of that storage is in the eastern part of the country, does get transported through Nebraska, and Nebraska would be the main route for those spent fuel rods, it would be the main route for the rail lines and for the truck transportation, both of which go from the eastern part of Nebraska to the western part of Nebraska, which puts Nebraska at much greater risk than many other states. It is out of that concern of risk and liability for the citizens of the state of Nebraska and for the state itself that I have my greatest concern and which causes me to give this bill the priority status that I did. I certainly appreciate the work that Senator