

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

March 30, 1999 LB 530

the area of conflict resolution which I enjoy. It's called framing and it basically posits that how you frame a question or an argument helps determine the outcome of that question. There's a story which captures this concept and it's a young priest going to a monsignor saying, look, could I smoke while I pray? And the monsignor said, of course not. You're speaking to God. Be inappropriate to do so. And he goes back to the monastery and there he sees an older priest who's smoking in vespers and he stops and he says, wait a second, I just talked to the monsignor, you can't do that. Old priest said, really? I asked the monsignor if I could and he said it was okay. He said, tell me what did you ask the monsignor? And the young priest said, well, gosh, I asked if I could smoke while I pray. And, oh, said the old priest, I understand now. I asked the monsignor if I could pray while I smoked and the monsignor said, of course, you can pray any time. Well, that's an example of framing and the question that we asked in this issue was who gets this, who gets this waste facility, as in who's going to accept the noogies from the rest of us and who's going to lose the draw? Had we asked the question, who wants this, we probably would have found some communities in the state of Nebraska who would have accepted this and who probably would have done the community consent necessary to meet the standards, but we didn't do that. We said, no, no, no, we're going to do a procedure to find out who is most deserving of having it rammed down their throat and what a shock when they resisted that kind of an approach. We should have known better, by the way we framed the issue, that we would have exactly the kind of fight that we did and we should have learned from that fight and I hope we have. If there is liability in what we've done up till now, it's already occurred. There's nothing in this act today that triggers liability. And, by the way, having done this, we have five years to reverse ourselves if we wish to. So there is, in fact, at this moment, in this act, no increase, in my estimation, of liability or risk, and all the more reason why we should step forward, do this bill and say to ourselves, we should have learned. We should have learned in the way that we sited this that the approach that we took here was the completely different than the approach that we took in the siting of the prison which, if you'll recall, we said, who wants this, and up stepped dozens of communities saying, we'll take it, we'll gladly take it. Frankly, when we are looking to site