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PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Beutler. Senator Schimek, followed by Wickersham, Brown, Suttle, and Vrtiska.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I suppose I'm somewhat like Senator Pederson in that I'm not sure where my conversation is going to go, but I feel the need to express a few thoughts on this issue. My initial knee-jerk kind of reaction I suppose is to vote against the Brown amendment, even though I really, really want to support Senator Thompson on this issue because I think she's absolutely right on this issue. But I am very concerned about what this does to the McCook area, and what kind of public relations it does entail, and what that says about entering into agreements with the state of Nebraska, and how good our word is on the decisions that we make. I've had this same kind of feeling before about 775. I may not have supported it originally, but once you enter into those contracts or agreements, then I think you're bound and beholden to uphold those agreements. On the other hand, if I do support the amendment and put the money into the Kearney-Geneva situation, I am virtually sure we will back on Select File to put the money back into the McCook work facility. And we won't have done serious harm to the McCook project except that there will still be bad feelings there perhaps in the western part of the state. If the amendment, on the other hand, if the amendment doesn't get passed, then does the issue go away and nothing gets done at Geneva-Kearney? That's what I fear and that's what...you know, that's why my initial reaction was one thing, my second reaction another, and I'm still having third and fourth thoughts. Is there any way that we can work ourselves out of this situation if, indeed, it is the sentiment of the body to do something about Geneva-Kearney this year? And the only thing that I can see, at least initially, is that we withdraw the Brown amendment and simply add an amendment that does put some money into the Kearney-Geneva facilities. And that amendment I feel would be more appropriate to offer on Select File after careful consideration has been given to the amount of money that should be spent. And, Senator Thompson, I'm sincere. I do want to support you in this effort. I do think it's critical. I do think it's gone unnoticed and un...and not taken care of for a very long period of time, and we're going to have to do it