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LB 165

SENATOR PREISTER: Thank you, Mr. President. I, in answering the question of Senator Baker, he asked about whether or not OPPD had been contacted, so I would ask if Senator Vrtiska would yield to that question.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Would you yield, Senator Vrtiska, to a question?

SENATOR VRTISKA: Yes.

SENATOR PREISTER: Senator Vrtiska, to your awareness, do you know if OPPD had been contacted and if there was some discussion about whether or not they would be willing to take over the operation of the NPPD plant and, if so, what took place?

SENATOR VRTISKA: Yes, they were contacted and they had a series of meetings, attempting to arrive at a solution in the generation of the plant. They were never able to, like many times happens, they were never able to come together so they have...as I understand it now, they've discontinued talks.

SENATOR PREISTER: Do you know who discontinued the talks or what the stumbling blocks may have been?

SENATOR VRTISKA: Well, I think there were a number of issues that they were unable to resolve. I don't feel competent to go into a big discussion. I have talked to members of OPPD and NPPD, both, about this issue at some time in the past because I had the same question that you're asking, is why they weren't able to get...to come to some kind of a solution and perhaps move ahead. I don't know that I have the...to want to make further...and further suggestions about it because I'm not that familiar with it except that they were never able to get together.

SENATOR PREISTER: Okay. Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. Mr. President, I would like to ask Senator Quandahl a question, if I may, please.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Quandahl, would you respond to a