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FLOOR DEBATE

April 3, 2003            LB 165

out of this thing? We all recall testimony earlier that OPPD and NPPD looked at some kind of a joint venture and they walked away from it. Now I don't know who walked first or why they did. It's clear that there is a serious problem at Cooper, and I'm going to support the Preister amendment. Senator Preister, if you'd like the rest of my time, I would yield it. Otherwise, I will turn it back to the Chair.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Preister, if you care to have them, there's about two minutes.

SENATOR PREISTER: Thank you, Senator Mines. I appreciate...thank you, Mr. President. I appreciate you yielding the time. I also appreciate your comments. It is important that we think about this indemnification. That's a decision that we need to take very, very seriously, and I think some people are starting to raise some questions and see this as not just something that we give a quick vote to and then make a decision that we could stand to have to deal with in some huge financial issues in the future. We have spent a large amount of money. When I last checked with Senator Wehrbein, the cost of just the litigation, just the court costs that Nebraska spent were \$13.1 million on this siting court case. That's just what the state of Nebraska spent so far. The appeal is still to come. We... and I don't know what OPPD spent because they were a party to the suit, as were some of the other utilities. The cost of those suits, and we're indemnifying, and I don't think I have time to go into it right now, but we're indemnifying NMC...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR PREISTER: ...against any of their negligence. But we're also indemnifying beyond just their negligence. And in another time that I have to speak, I will try and go into a little more detail of what I'm saying there. But as dull, as dry as this may seem to some people, I hope that you pay attention because these are major policy decisions. I can't say that enough times. We're starting to go down the road away from public power. That's a major decision. We're indemnifying a company outside of the state of Nebraska that we have no authority over against their negligence. That's a major public