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FLOOR DEBATE

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when the motion to call the question happened, I thought, well, we better explore this a little further. Reading Senator Preister's amendment, it just appears that there is an additional protection to the public. It just says that if a public power district wants to contract with a private entity, they have to do a public notice and a hearing, and then there is a two-thirds majority vote of the elected members has to take place, and then they have to find that there's extraordinary circumstances which would require such action. Senator Mines had a great analogy about Senator Vrtiska's poorly run farm. But I don't think that paints an accurate picture because this isn't...this isn't a contract to mow the weeds in the ditch. It isn't a contract to clean the windows at the Capitol, or polish the floors. This is a contract to administer and run what I would consider to be one of the most inherently dangerous facilities that there is--a nuclear power plant. It should be approached with caution, with due diligence, and with the utmost care. Reading Senator Preister's amendment, I don't understand why that's a problem. What we're doing is we are going to great lengths to certify, to verify that the company that would be given this contract is of the utmost character and ability to manage a facility such as this. I don't understand quite yet why this amendment is a bad idea. In fact, I think it's probably a good idea. But I think the debate should continue. I think that there is a burden on the opponents of this amendment to show why it is a bad idea. I think any additional safeguards that we can put on a situation like this, or a contract that is going to regulate or control or run an inherently dangerous plant is good. The more safeguards the better. With that, I think the debate should continue. If Senator Preister wishes the remainder of my time, he may so have it, but I think that this amendment is a fairly good idea. I intend to support it unless I can hear something that persuades me otherwise. Senator Preister, if you'd care for the time.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Preister, about two and a half minutes, if you care to use them.

SENATOR PREISTER: Thank you, Mr. President, and, yes, I would care to use it. And thank you, Senator Bourne. I again appreciate that you're also taking this seriously and that