

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

April 11, 2003 LB 165

Senator Preister's amendment is doing, it appears to me, is ensuring that when NMC sues or is sued by any entity within the state of Nebraska or particularly the state of Nebraska, Nebraska taxpayers don't pay for that; NMC does. It seems logical to me, seems reasonable, and I think we have time to return this to Select, review the proposed amendment, and bring it back to this body for a decision at a later date. With that, I return the rest of my time to the Chair.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Mines. Senator Stuhr.

SENATOR STUHR: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I oppose returning the bill back to Select File. As a member of the Natural Resources Committee, we have had an in-depth discussion of this issue. I have an article in the paper...from the paper saying that right now nuclear...Cooper Nuclear has the lowest grade for a nuclear plant to remain open. We must do something. We have to do something or it will come back to the ratepayers, talking about what additional costs we will have if we do not have this plant available will be extremely expensive, I believe, to all of the ratepayers. It is the only plant in this category. I believe when I spoke on the issue previously they have some problems that need to be worked out. If we have a problem medically, personally, I won't just go to a doctor. I will go to a specialist. And this is what we are trying to do is allow this group to come in and who specializes in working in nuclear plants, so that they may identify those problems and work with the people at Cooper to work through. In the past, we've had, as I understand, a turnover in management. We have some employee performance that needs to come up. There are some areas that they will be working on. Emergency preparedness, human performance, materiel condition, equipment reliability, plant modification, and configuration control, those are some of the things that the management group has expertise in and will be working very hard to improve our plant, so it will come back. We need to have the opportunity to have the group come in, and I am opposed to bringing this amendment back to Select File. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Stuhr. Senator Schrock.