

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

February 19, 2004 LR 14

cobra philosophy, which is that the king cobra wastes no venom on dead or fleeing things. So what I want to use my time for this morning is to comment on the low-level nuclear waste fiasco. Senator Combs mentioned the "Holly Bible" earlier. Well, the "Bible" for a legislator, Senator Combs, is the constitution, or, as Mr. Wallace would say, the constitution (pronounced with accent). But anyway, we all know that the three branches of government are set out in Article II, Section 1, of the constitution, which says, "The powers of the government of this state are divided into three distinct departments, the legislative, executive and judicial." Then, when we go to Article IV that talks about the executive branch, in Section 1 it mentions all of the executive branch officers created by the constitution. Among those officers are the Governor, naturally, and the Attorney General. When we get to Article IV, Section 6, we find this language, and this is what I wanted to work my way up to: "The supreme executive power shall be vested in the Governor, who shall take care that the laws be faithfully executed and the affairs of the state," all of the affairs of the state, "efficiently and economically administered." The Governor is mandated by the constitution to take care that the affairs of the state are efficiently and economically administered. What this Governor should do is bail out and cut the state's losses on this nuclear waste facility. I was against it and I know Senator Beutler had said before Judge Kopf's Opinion nobody could have predicted what happened. I mocked and taunted and ridiculed the Legislature, the Attorney General, and it said that Nebraska, if this goes to court, is going to lose, lose, lose, because I had seen some documents. I had seen documents which I knew, if they got into court, would ensure that Nebraska would lose. If it's true, and I believe it is, that as much as \$25 million has been squandered on lawyers to lose this case, and I know what Senator Beutler said is true that interest rates...interest amounts will continue to mount and mount and mount, if the Governor has any notion of running for the U.S. Senate, he should comply with this requirement in the constitution to see that the affairs of the state are efficiently and economically administered, which means you've got to know when to hold 'em and know when to fold 'em. When you have lost but not lost everything, what you think about trying to do is to figure how you can cut further losses. The