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FLOOR DEBATE

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think it's premature. We don't have to do anything today. We can leave this bill, I'll vote for the committee amendments, leave it \$1.05 for three years it proposes and go on. We might have some different information, even by Select File. I doubt it, but if we don't and we just pass the bill with the committee amendments adopted, we can come back and work on this thing. The \$104 million may go away. We may negotiate our way out of some part of the settlement on the low-level radioactive waste site by siting the facility in Nebraska. Reading the papers, there was a meeting Friday on that. I don't have any idea what they did, but I'll bet in the end we're not going to pay \$151 million plus interest if we can work anything whatsoever out. If our negotiators are worth a dime, they can certainly save us some money there. And in respect to...or answer to Senator Raikes' question, we're playing with the lid. You've got to remember why we have lids, folks. There was years past when we had, I don't remember what we were in my local district, \$2 or something, for schools. How in the world did we get lids? It was taxpayer demand that we bridle the spending that was out of control out there, and I'm one of those people that favors lids because we've been the other route. It didn't work, folks. There was no rationale to some of the things they did out there and, hence, there was a taxpayers' revolt. We were going to have petitions, and for once the Legislature reacted and said we'll put lids in place. We didn't have a petition on the ballot and I think as recent as two years ago we fought off the...some petitions, initiatives on the ballot too. But my point is we don't have to do anything today with this. I support the committee amendments. We can do that and that's swallowing hard and holding my nose a bit for that because we originally said we were going to do this for two years, and now we've backed up and said, nope, couldn't handle that, going to do it for four years, and that brings me back to Senator Brashear's point. If we'd issued bonds two years ago or four years ago, and we said, fine, that looked like the thing to do; we'll borrow against the future. And all of a sudden we can't make the interest payments, principal payments of the bonds, and where would we be now if we'd have issued bonds four years ago or ten years ago? Where would we be if we'd issued bonds ten years ago, where would we be today on those bonds paying the principal and interest off on those things? I firmly believe