

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

March 31, 2004 LB 1090

makers and they will make their decision to either leave themselves, or they will leave and take their business with them, or they will expand somewhere else. So let's watch that we don't send a personal message to our decision makers. Get back just one second to what Senator Stuthman was talking about. If valuations are up that high, and you hear this over and over, maybe putting that lid up as an option would be there as a safeguard but it wouldn't have to be used. So something to think about. I turn the rest of the time back to the Chair. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Johnson. Senator Baker, followed by Senator Bourne, Chambers, and Loudon, and others.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Senator Cudaback and members. I have been listening to the discussion. I know there's some Revenue Committee members with their lights on now, and I happen, I guess, to be the first one, but we had a briefing by the Attorney General on the low-level radioactive waste suit, the potential appeal routes and so on. Senator Brashear addressed those in a very eloquent manner. We feel, by November 1 as I recall, and I encourage and I see there are Revenue Committee member lights on now, to...by November 1 we'd have a definitive answer. And I don't know anything more than anyone else on this floor, probably know less in a lot of cases, about what we're doing in negotiating with the plaintiffs in this case. And as you know, Omaha Public Power District, Nebraska Public Power District, not part...not plaintiffs in the case, but they will stand to receive some portion of this payment, I believe, and I would...not putting words in their mouth, but I would hope that they would say, no, we're not going to accept that part of our \$151 million judgment, so on. There's...my point is, there's room for some negotiation here. Our Chairman of the Revenue Committee is not here. I wish he were. But in his absence, we have to bring this up that we were...we were briefed. The committee did not have a consensus to move anything dealing with funding this. I don't deny we're going to have to put a new surcharge tax, call it whatever you want. Somewhere along the line, we're going to have to come up with some revenue to pay for some part of this \$151 million judgment. I don't want to see it accrue interest at 10 percent. I guarantee that's not