

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

March 31, 2004 LB 1090

good business either. But do we do it now or do we wait to see just what we can negotiate? And my hope is, and I hope somebody out there is listening, the negotiators, that we could site this facility in Nebraska. Senator Johnson made some very good points. I was visiting with some...a resident of western Nebraska. We still have nuclear missiles scattered all over the Panhandle, folks. They're sitting out there, here, there and everywhere. You can see them from the Interstate, the sites. They're all over the place in western Nebraska. They're headquartered out of Warren Air Force Base in Cheyenne, but there's a bunch of them out there. We don't have any problem with them. Senator Johnson mentioned we're storing this now, and Senator Janssen also brought up the question. We have done a little preliminary work on this because we actually have some interest in siting this in western Nebraska. As you know, Kimball has spoken up in support of at least looking at it, and I know I have some people in my area looking at it. This would be hospital lab waste, type things like that. I have been involved with radiation in the last, you know, departments of hospitals last year. I know there's quite a little of that generated in hospitals, labs, teaching facilities, university, school, and et cetera. Right now, I believe most of that is being shipped to South Carolina and the really high-level waste is being stored in Nebraska. It's there now. That's the fuel rods they use to generate the heat for the power plants. It's...I believe that they are building on to the storage facility at Brownville as we speak. And those high-level radioactive spent fuel rods are stored in state. They're out there now and they are stored for years down there and we have had no problems with them. I doubt they're in as secure a facility as what the low-level radioactive waste would be. But hopefully answered some questions, and I think that there needs to be a lot more education done to the public so that we can, in fact, site this in Nebraska. I want to reiterate some of Senator Schrock's concerns on the surcharge. As you well know, in the last couple three years there have been a great many agricultural operations out there showing net operating losses, so I'm assuming if we took a tax return in and said, so-and-so, here's your tax return, net operating loss, that every meter if they're an irrigator and there are stock pumps, stock wells, you name it, they might have 20, 30 different accounts. I'm