

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

April 1, 2004

LB 1090

the building of two low-level nuclear waste sites. They're not doing it through the compact process but separately and through statutes, passing statutes that will allow private entities, believe it or not, to build low-level nuclear waste disposal sites. One of that legislation that would have allowed that has gone through the Texas Senate and is expected to go through the Texas House easily when they come back into session. And they're in the process now of taking comments on the rules that will pertain for the building of these waste sites. So all I'm saying is that this factor mitigates against a settlement for a site in Nebraska, which further indicates that the probabilities are that we are going to have to pay all, if not most, of this principal amount of \$151 million. So we can argue about the 10 percent, and I haven't seen all the statutes yet so I don't really have an opinion on it, but the 10 percent may be the difference between another \$15 million or \$20 million, but still the \$151 million is the bulk of what we have to consider, and I would just ask you to factor into your consideration what's happening down in Texas and how that might affect probabilities up here. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Kremer, followed by Senator Bourne and Senator Bromm.

SENATOR KREMER: Thank you, Senator Cudaback, members of the body. I'm about ready to lose my voice so I can't talk too long. But I haven't said anything on this or the other on the sales tax increase. I think the hardest thing for me, and maybe for all of you, is that we're coming down here after we anticipated that we were not going to have to think about raising taxes this year. It looked like we was going to be about \$200 million short. We could do it with some transfers and use some rainy day funds and thinking that we was going to be in a little better shape this year, and then we get this surprise of \$111 million, then another surprise of \$155 million, but it's not going to go away. And as hard as it is, I think we've got to just take a deep breath and do something. But I don't think the something is to start down a new path with bonding. I think that we would look back a few years from now and say, why did we ever start down that path? Even though we anticipate times are going to get better, I think when times do