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FLOOR DEBATE

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received \$15.5 million in that settlement. And are you aware of what they did with that money?

SENATOR BOURNE: I have no idea. And quite frankly, it matters not a whit to me. It was rightfully theirs, and it's free to do with what...that public entity, owned by its ratepayers, is free to do with it what they will.

SENATOR PREISTER: And I would agree with that. They gave \$23, approximately, of that back, I believe it was last November, to all of their ratepayers.

SENATOR BOURNE: I remember...

SENATOR PREISTER: So in a sense, they did give it back.

SENATOR BOURNE: I remember seeing that on my bill, and I was very appreciative, given that it was the Christmastime.

SENATOR PREISTER: So that was one way of dealing with that money, which was not, certainly, analogous to winning a lottery, but certainly a large chunk of money, \$15.5 million, that came in. Now,...and that's all I would ask you, Senator Bourne. Thank you. If I were in the position...and it's a management and a judgment call, and OPPD has got a board of directors that are elected by the people, so it's democratically elected representation, and I understand they can make the decisions they want. But if I were concerned about a bond rating, if I wanted to reduce my indebtedness, if I wanted to look out for the ratepayers, I would consider refinancing existing bonds, I would consider paying some of the cost of the new coal-fired power plant that they're building, I would look at how much money is now going to be needed for these mandated requirements. Yes, you can give \$23 back to each individual ratepayer, and yes, they'll see it and they'll think, oh, that's nice, and they'll forget it. It is nice to do for them, and I appreciated that \$23...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR PREISTER: ...off of my bill. However, that small