

SENATOR SCHMIT: Another reason, ladies and gentlemen, why I want to do this. I just spent some time with Mr. Don Long from Central Platte and I have been told that there is about somewhere between 14 and \$18 million now that has been spent to try to relicense that little bitty power plant out there at Lake McConaughy. If we each had a wind charger on top of our garage, we could probably generate about that many kilowatts of electricity but we spend 14 to 18 million bucks. Why? If you listen to Mr. Long, it's because the Whooping Crane Trust Fund is hard to deal with. If you listen to our former colleague, Johnny Cavanaugh, it's because Central Platte is hard to deal with. But here you've got a bunch of Washington lawyers, ladies and gentlemen, bleeding the system dry. How long do you think it's going to take them to settle so long as we keep kicking in \$2 million a year for one study after another, one fight after another? They will never resolve it. We just found out, much to our chagrin, that there has been about \$31 million spent on the low-level business, \$31 million. I about dropped over dead. We were...we were led to believe that it was a minuscule amount. You know who paid for that? Good old ratepayer paid for it. You know who's going to keep on paying? The ratepayer. If you go before the Appropriations Committee and try to get that money, they will die laughing. They will fall off the chairs. They will kill your proposal before you get out the door, and justifiably so. But as long as you're going to add it to the light bill, nobody gives a darn. Ladies and gentlemen, it's time we put these things on the table and we take charge, we take charge. We tell Mr. Stenberg, you make an honest to gosh, good faith effort, good faith effort to settle that. If you don't, I'll tell you what happens. Here's my grandson, he just got a dollar off of me. You know what he did? He headed for the concession stand on a dead run. It was burning a hole in his pocket. Same way with Mr. Stenberg and any other attorney, they're going to litigate. They're going to spend the money because that's their natural inclination to do it. And we are being irresponsible when we say, here it is, if you don't need it, don't spend it; if you need it, come back later on and we will give you more. I think what we're saying is we're not going to give you the money. And if you get your tail in a crack, or they come after you and they corner you, you come back and we will appropriate the money next January, but in the meantime this is our indication of good faith to the State of Wyoming. I can't think of a better argument for Senator Rod Johnson or Mike Jess or for the Governor, himself, to use, to go