

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Rod Johnson. Senator Schmit, you are next.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members, it has been said that this has been around awhile, I would have to say it has been around about 20 years, and I had almost made up my mind that I wouldn't even be negative on it, that if Senator Rod Johnson wanted to run with his bill, that I would point out why I had opposed the state takeover for many years, and let it go at that. Over the weekend I was visited by some people who were victimized, they said, as a result of Nebraska's passage of the NDIGC. I also made a trip out to Boyd County and I visited with some of the people there who were victims, they tell me, of the low-level radioactive waste legislation. I want to tell you who was involved with both of those bills. I was involved with NDIGC. I was the lead horse, so to speak, most of the time on the low-level radioactive waste issue, and as each succeeding day goes by, we find additional evidence that this Legislature was at the very best misled and, in some cases, lied to relative to, number one, the necessity for the number of low-level radioactive waste sites; number two, the speed with which they were going to be implemented; and, number three, most of all, the terrible repercussions that were going to occur if this state didn't jump in and take over control of low-level radioactive waste. Well, I have a few amendments which I am preparing for this bill, and I guess most of all, I am ashamed of the fact that this Legislature, last year after having a public hearing, took into account the testimony that was before the committee and decided to keep the bill in committee. All of a sudden, in the course of a few days, some things happened. My former protege, Pat Ptacek, goes to work for the Department of Agriculture. Pat is a very capable young man. I taught him a lot of the things he knows. At the present time, he appears to have become more intelligent than his leader and he has taken on the responsibility of creating within the Department of Agriculture the division which would administer this program. That is fine, that is the way the system works. But also there comes onto the scene another player, a private company, manufactures atrazine. They have been told that unless the state takes over control, the label from the EPA that the EPA will demand be placed on their product will make the manufacturer take full liability for the use of the product. Now maybe that is the way it should be, but if that is true in the case of atrazine, had it ought not to be true in the case of every other single chemical? Number three, they have said if