

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Yes, Mr. President. I conferred with Senator Luedtke in terms of the precise wording of this. Senator Schmit, I know you'll be interested that in order to return this facility to Lincoln where it duly belongs it's going to take a cooperative effort, not only on the part of the Governor and the Secretary of Agriculture but, certainly in terms of the Congressional delegation. I think it would be a mistake to attempt to split this state in terms of partisan politics on an issue like this if your number one objective is my number one objective and that is to see that this lab is placed correctly. The correct place for it is Lincoln, Nebraska. I'd ask for the adoption of the amendment.

SENATOR MARVEL: Senator Loran Schmit. Speaking to the Lewis amendment to the resolution.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President, I speak in support of the Lewis amendment, and also in support of the resolution. I agree with both Senator Luedtke and Senator Frank Lewis. The proper location for the facility is here in Lincoln, it was determined to be so. The change in administration should not affect the location of the site. Certainly, the close cooperation of the Congressional delegation, which is composed of both Democrats and Republicans and in fact one former member of this body, our former member John Cavanaugh. I'm sure that the Governor will lend his assistance in cooperation with that delegation, and insist that the facility be located here in Lincoln, Nebraska. Certainly, the change of national administration should have no bearing upon where this site is located. It is vital to the interest of Nebraska and the Midwest. Nebraska is one of the leading cattle producers, leading livestock producer of both hogs and cattle. It's becoming a very important poultry site. I would just like to say that I think perhaps within a radius of 25 miles of my farm are located probably 20 or 25 percent of the laying hens in Nebraska. For that reason, along with the fact that certainly we are huge and large producers of grain which is vital to the livestock industry, that the site should be located here in Nebraska. Anything that can be done by this body, in cooperation with the Governor and in cooperation with the Congressional delegation, to further cooperation with the Department of Agriculture and the Administration should be done. There ought to be some good lines of communication between this body and the Congressional delegation. I hope that the passage of this resolution will indicate to everyone concerned that partisan politics is not an issue, and that the site should be relocated here in Nebraska.

SENATOR MARVEL: Chair recognizes Senator Rasmussen, then Senator Cope. Senator Rasmussen. Speaking to the Frank Lewis amendment.

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: Mr. President, members of the body. I certainly support the resolution and also Frank Lewis' amendment. I don't know if Speaker Luedtke mentioned it, but at that time Senators Simpson, Luedtke and myself were at the meeting with the U.S.D.A. when this came about. Of course, the contracts have been let. The EPA requirements have all been met. I think it's time that we forget the politics and work for the people of Nebraska, whether we be Democrat or Republican, and see if we can't hold this meat lab here in Lincoln where it certainly belongs.