

of us would need to attend the various conferences. I did attend one of the conferences. Mr. Drain attended the rest of them and there is a possibility that compact legislation will be introduced by several groups. Mr. Drain and I feel very strongly that the group that we describe here with which we are aligned is the group that is most likely for us to be associated with because of the similarity of the generation of waste in the various capacities, the similarity of population, and the similarity in topography and geography of the land involved. I believe we need to recognize the generation of these wastes are a fact of life. They are generated by hospitals, by medical clinics, by many other low-level generators. They contribute greatly to the quality of life here in Nebraska so we must face the necessity of the disposal of these wastes and to dispose of them in a manner that is the least hazardous to the public. The state has a great deal to benefit from this type of compact legislation. I would hope that the Legislature would adopt this resolution and, thereby, give us the direction we need to further put together the type of legislation that would allow Nebraska to join these other states to provide a single repository for these wastes. It does not make much sense for each state to develop the kind of repository that is necessary for the safe disposal of these wastes when perhaps a number of states could join together, by so doing decrease the cost, and decrease the problems that are attenuating to the disposal of that waste. So I would move for the adoption of the resolution.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Just a couple of questions, if I could, Senator Schmit. I guess we are being asked to give some direction, once again, what was the reason that the Legislature at this time is being called upon to give this direction?

SENATOR SCHMIT: The past year, Mr. Drain, representing the Governor, and myself, representing the Legislature, as the Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment, have been participating in discussions designed to attempt to produce legislation that could be effectively modeled after the kind of compact legislation the states would join in to jointly dispose of low-level radioactive waste. The hearings and meetings have been held over the past year and there is a very good possibility that we will want to join one of these groups. If we do not join a group of other states, then Nebraska will be faced with the necessity of providing for our own disposal system for low-level radioactive waste. Under the present system there are states that have shown an interest in becoming the repository for this type of material and there are some benefits and, of course, some responsibilities that are involved with being