

meetings which I have just described to Senator Johnson. Number two, it will give the credibility of the Legislature behind the efforts of myself and Mr. Drain to attend future meetings with the Central states group in order to draft compact legislation. Without the passage of this resolution, it would be perhaps unwise and certainly in my estimation ridiculous for us to attend future meetings.

SENATOR NEWELL: All right, how have we decided that the Central states group is the group that we are going to join? I mean, how did we arrive at that designation?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Senator Newell, myself and Mr. Drain have attended a number of these meetings. Some of them have been held in Oklahoma City primarily with the Central states group. The other meetings have been held in Chicago with the other group. It was obvious to Mr. Drain and myself that Nebraska interests were better served by joining with the Central Interstate Group and that is why I am asking for the adoption of this resolution.

SENATOR NEWELL: Senator Schmit, has your committee held public hearings in regard to this resolution and the groupings of states that basically we are proposing to join at this point in time?

SENATOR SCHMIT: My committee has not held hearings, Senator Newell.

SENATOR NEWELL: Senator Schmit, don't you think this would be a good thing to do is at this point in time have the public have input and come to fully understand just why we have made the decisions that we have that are proposed in this resolution? I mean it really isn't as preliminary as you have been suggesting, is it?

SENATOR SCHMIT: I believe it is very preliminary, Senator Newell. The hearings that the Department of Environmental Control will hold this summer will provide the public input. The Legislature's Ag and Environment Committee will also hold a hearing, at least one hearing and maybe more, to provide for input in that manner, and if it should be the decision as the result of these hearings that we should join some other group, then we are still in a position to do so.

SENATOR NEWELL: All right, then let me ask you this then, Senator Schmit, and let me explain my concern real quickly. This is a very important issue. I mean it is more important and I think has an impact potentially greater than I may even imagine but it is for that reason that I would urge this