

many times about why it is appropriate to return the remains and burial goods because that is not what is before us now. What we're talking about now is an amount of time to be given in addition to the over 50 years that the people holding these remains and burial goods have already had. So I hope you would defeat Senator Wesely's amendment to his amendment, then I hope you will defeat his chief amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Baack.

SENATOR BAACK: Yes, Mr. Speaker and members, I, too, rise to oppose this amendment. I think that having been involved in the negotiation process for a couple of months now and we've been through this...over this ground before, this is kind of deja vu for me. We've been over this ground a number of times in the negotiations and I think that now is the time that we need to draw the line in the sand. We're not going to accept any longer time frame except we will accept Senator Warner's amendment coming up in a little while for a one-year extension. I think that is plenty long enough. I know that a reference was made to the Attorney General's Opinion that...and he had made reference to a three-year time frame. If you read that entire Attorney General's Opinion, he is not saying that we should give them three more years to study these remains. That opinion says we've had them 47 years too long. We should have only had them three years to start with. That's what it says. It doesn't say we should give them an additional three years. It says we've had them 47 years too long. We should have given them back a long time ago. So we don't need to extend the time anymore. One more year, which will allow time for the tribes to locate some land, to get the land designated for the burial site is plenty of time. If we allow some extra money for the Historical Society, that should be plenty of time for them to do their studies. They've had the remains for over 50 years already. They should have had most of the studies done by now. So with that, I would simply urge you to reject this amendment, to reject the three-year extension. Later when Senator Warner makes his one-year extension I would agree to that, and I think that's a very reasonable compromise in this case. I think we have asked the tribes to continue to compromise. We continue to ask them to add more and more to theirs. We never asked the other side to do anything. We just asked the tribes to continue to compromise. I think this is where we stop, one-year extension, no more than that. Thank you.