

that community's consent meant we will not come into a community if the people of the community don't want that, that we're not going to tie you to anything if you don't want it. And then toward the end, becoming very vague about what we meant by community consent and not whether or not it really means is it the board of supervisors, is it the people themselves? What is it? It doesn't ever get defined. And I know...I guess as far as I'm concerned I see some great discrepancies in what these people were having conveyed to them when they were visiting with them out into the communities. I see the changing interpretation of the meaning of community consent as we go through these dates. Now I realize that there are going to be some problems if we end up voting for this measure. I know that we do need to get ahead with this. I think that we must accept the responsibility that we assumed...I wasn't here at the time either, Senator McFarland, but we as a state did assume that responsibility. We said we're going to enter a compact. And now we can't take our marbles and go home because we don't like the way the game was played. We knew what the rules would be when we entered into the compact. So I don't want to say that we shouldn't follow our responsibilities, that we should not keep those. And I don't like the idea of having to pay penalties but I can tell you that I think what we're doing here is we're creating...if we don't allow the people to have the right to vote on this issue, you're going to end up splitting communities forever. And so even though it may set us back, this is something that's going to be with us and the future generations to come in Nebraska. What it costs, it costs. And so I say I think we should give them the right to vote. For this reason, I will probably be supporting the Dierks amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Elmer, followed by Senators Morrissey, Schellpeper and Korshoj.

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a very serious issue I have been involved in for quite some time. I think we need to address very basically the obligations of Nebraska. In my discussions with various groups around the state on this issue, I voiced the opinion that if the state and its agencies, along with the cooperation of the federal agencies involved, were to pick the best site in Nebraska, use eminent domain to acquire that site, that all of the local dissension could have been avoided; town against country, neighbor against neighbor, county against county and radical environmentalists who have