

have decided that it takes somebody else to do that. If, Senator Schmit, after drinking whatever he drank out of that cup should suddenly keel over and begin to writhe on the floor and draw up tight as a ball because he is having cramps, he could tell somebody, I'm hurting, I'm sick, I need a doctor. He knows that from his experience, but he cannot treat himself. So we're not disparaging the local people. We are saying they have sense enough to recognize the seriousness of the issue. They know how high the stakes are and in their representative capacity they want to select somebody to speak for them who can get into the game, who understands what the stakes are and can match those who are being played against. Now it would be paternalistic for us as a Legislature to say that we know what is best for these people and we're going to tell them that if you make this decision, you are wrong because you're not deciding the way the Legislature and certain powerful money interests that back this facility want you to decide. So because you may make a decision that we don't want you to make, we're going to take away the alternative and we're going to wait and see what it is you want, then we're going to snatch that from you and say you have no right to that and our interest is in what is best for you. That is wrong, that is unfair. It's a type of paternalism that we should not be involved in. Senator Schmit said that these committees are to protect the local people and give them input and they have decided what safeguards will lead to their security and words like that are in the Declaration of Independence.

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Now I think this situation, and everybody I believe will agree with me, is unique in that it probably will never face this state again, the siting of a facility such as this. The materials that will be placed there will last longer than everybody on this floor will live, save one. I think, because of the stakes being so high, we should authorize by statute these local people to select at least one person of their choice and, Senator Schmit, if they wanted two, I would be in favor of that, but if I can't get one, how am I going to get two? I think we can get one, however, because I think there is a sense of justice on the floor of the Legislature.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator WeiHING.

SENATOR WEIHING: Mr. President and members of the Legislature,