SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President, members, I agree with Senator Rod Johnson. I do not believe the amendment has any value. A nonbinding vote, merely a popularity vote or a vote which would perhaps give someone a chance to raise the issue, has no binding value and, in my opinion, merely serves to give the people of those communities some semblance of, a feeling that they have a vote when they really don't have one. That is, to me, a most cruel form of deception. I oppose the amendment.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Bernard-Stevens, please.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Question.

PRESIDENT: Question has been called again. Do I see five hands? I do. And the question is, shall debate cease? All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Senator McFarland, would you like to please close on your amendment.

SENATOR McFARLAND: Yes, I'd be glad to. I think this amendment does mean something. Let me tell you under what I see the circumstances which could be to have this really take an important role in the decision-making process. Say we have the results of the studies that are going on and they determine that all three counties presently under consideration are all good sites to locate the nuclear waste dump, they're all relatively good. They're not...you cannot really select one site above the other, that, in fact, some have very positive things about them that the site could be located in any of the three counties. And say that of those three counties that two of them took a vote, and one of the votes said we reject it, overwhelmingly, we do not want the nuclear waste site dump in our county. Say the second county says, yes, we approve of it, we want to have the waste site dump in our county. And say the third one didn't take a vote at all. Now it seems to me at that point in time that the US Ecology and the Governor's office and this Legislature could consider that as an expression of community consent. One definitely does not want it, one definitely does want the nuclear waste site dump, and one has no view whatsoever. Under those circumstances it seems totally appropriate that that view be considered in selecting which