

March 5, 1990

some visitors in the south balcony. We have six senior students from Wilcox High School and their teacher. Would you folks please stand and be recognized. Thank you for visiting us today. Senator Dierks, please.

SENATOR DIERKS: Mr. President and members of the body, I, too, have to stand in opposition to this confirmation. You know, three years ago when I was a very freshman freshman in this Legislature and Senator Lee Rupp was Chairman of the Government Committee, we had some confirmation hearings that bothered me because I'd had some information that one of these people was less than desirable that was being confirmed that day and it is difficult to ask somebody who is being confirmed if they are fair and if they are kind to their employees. I'm not sure how you ask those sort of questions, and I relayed that information to Senator Rupp, and he brought it up on the floor and we went to that confirmation hearing. I still have some difficulties with the process. It appears to me that when we get in those committee hearings that the thing looks like a rubber-stamping thing and when these appointments are made we just sit there and go along with them. The first time we really had any great difficulty, I think this year anyway, was with the confirmation report on the Foster Care Review Board a week ago. Here is a situation where you have...this confirmation we're talking about today is a situation where you have at the committee hearing one person come and testify in favor of this man and I'm not sure how many, but it lasted for two and half hours, the opposition testimony. It is difficult for me to understand how that sort of testimony can result in a confirmation when you realize that the people who are objecting are the people who are most affected by this confirmation, the people who have been involved with the siting process, the counties where these are located and the districts where the opposition is coming from, the opposition is coming from the counties, it is coming from the counties that are going to be sited. What is the reason for that sort of a confirmation when total objection from those counties and from the people who are involved, the senators that are representing those counties are saying no. Qualified or not qualified, I'm sure that Mr. Thorson has got some qualifications, but I think the issue here is, does he actually represent the people that he is supposed to represent or do they perceive that he represents them as he should represent them? And the testimony at the hearing was definitely against this confirmation. Senator Schmit speaks about traumatic times. Let me tell you, I know what those are. We've had some of those