

March 5, 1990

traumatic times in the 40th Legislative District, Boyd County specifically. He talked about not knowing where we were going when we started on this thing. I might have a few questions about that, but anyway, it is a traumatic time and I think that there are many qualified people who could handle this job and I really don't think that, with the preponderance of information that came to that committee in opposition to this appointment, that it was prudent of that committee to make this appointment, to confirm this appointment and I certainly will not vote for the appointment and I hope that we have enough red lights on this appointment that it will not happen. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Lamb, please, followed by Senator Hefner and Senator Crosby.

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President and members, I rise to support the confirmation of Dr. Thorson. I have served on the Natural Resources Committee for many years and most all those years when Senator Schmit has been chairman, and this certainly is not a new issue. I was on the committee when we voted for the first bill and I, along with the rest of the members of this body, voted for that bill which established the compact system. It didn't establish the compact system, what it said was that we would go with the compact rather than going alone, and that was the question, that was the only question. It was not whether we would be involved with this situation or not, because the federal Congress had said to the states, either you have a commission and you have a compact where you combine with other states to dispose of this waste, or you do it on your own, you do it on your own. That was the choice we had, the only choice, and so it seemed logical to me at that time and to the committee that we do it in concert with some other states. And that...I still believe that was the correct choice because it does not make any sense for us to go it alone. Economically, we cannot afford to do it by ourselves and it does not lessen the risk by going alone, in my opinion. So that was the choice we made. Then last fall, last fall at the election there was a provision on the ballot which said, shall we stay in the compact or shall we go it alone? And by an overwhelming majority the people of the State of Nebraska said we'll stay in the compact, and so that is where we are today. I don't like it, I don't like it. I would like to see this problem go away. I would like to put it out in Arizona or Nevada or some other place and...but that isn't our choice at this point. We have been...we have had a lot of people come down here and talk to us about it when they