

March 5, 1990

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Crosby, please, followed by Senator Labedz.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I, too, rise to support Dr. Thorson's confirmation and I'd like to review just a couple of things that I have gone over the last two or three weeks to brief myself and to have enough research so I would understand a little bit of how I feel about the whole subject and what we're talking about this morning. When you go through the man's resume you can see how highly qualified he is. One thing stands out to me on his resume. He has a Ph.D. in agricultural economics and resource economics taken at the University of Nebraska in 1979. You don't get that kind of degree just by reading a few books. That entails research, that entails writing, that entails all kinds of work to obtain that degree and qualify for it at your last oral. So I think that one particular qualification brings to us a man who is qualified for this particular job and this appointed position. We talk a lot about the brain drain in Nebraska. Here is a man who stayed. Do you want him to leave? Well, I don't. I want him to stay. I want us to have the use of his talents, we need them. But I am going on and talking about one more aspect of the whole question and quite often I get my thought for the week from "Peanuts" on Sunday morning and if you looked at it yesterday, it is wonderful. Charlie Brown says he doesn't even know why he bothers getting a kite ready because there is a kite-eating tree out there waiting for him. There is always a lot of hungry trees out there after a long winter. They're impatient, greedy, merciless. Then a knock comes to the door and there is a tree when he opens the door and he says, I hate it when they come right up to the front door. Well, the point of this is that we all have fear of the unknown and this whole question of the compact and where the site will be and how it will be built and will it do this and will it do that focuses around that fear of the nuclear world. I can understand how those people who testified against Dr. Thorson feel because they have that fear of the unknown. Most of us have a hard time understanding the simplest and most basic nuclear equation. Can any of you explain it to me? I cannot. I'd have to get a book out and write and write and write and try to bring it back to my memory again, to understand even the simplest thing about nuclear power and nuclear energy. So I think probably what we have to realize is a lot of that opposition is because of that fear, and it is very difficult to overcome that emotion, but we still have to go ahead with this project. We still have to go