

March 5, 1990

that had potassium, and illustrated how the potassium has radioactivity, to a high degree.

PRESIDENT: One minute. One minute.

SENATOR WEIHING: Do you realize that the soils of our state have potassium, a great deal? We don't have to add potassium for the fertilizer. You live within radioactivity. And I bring this from the technological standpoint, let us get down to rationale. We need to have good people and Dr. Thorson impressed me as a person who was extremely well qualified. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Smith, followed by Senator Scofield.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the body, I, too, rise to ask your support in the confirmation of Norman Thorson as Chairman of the Waste Commission for the compact states. As a member of the Natural Resources Committee, this was, indeed, a long hearing and it was a controversial one. And, as has been stated by many members here, giving you lots of information, and the most recent, Senator Weihing, talked about the fact that not only was he questioned but almost you could say interrogated. I guess that we probably won't ever, any of us, say that we have all of the answers, and that's a big concern, I realize that, especially for Senator Morrissey and Senator Dierks, who were and are a part of those sites that were being looked at and, of course, have become much more knowledgeable than the other members, probably, of the committee even, but in particular of the whole legislative body. But this being a tremendous important issue to the State of Nebraska, and as a decision that was made by the state itself some years back, I'm glad I wasn't here, but I'm a part of the Legislature now, so we must deal with this now, the decision was made, it seemed to be the best and the only choice we had at that point in time. It was again reaffirmed by the people of the State of Nebraska that we stay in the compact, that we go forth with our plans. And so I believe it is our responsibility to do the best that we can for the people of the state and for the state itself in trying to say, okay, we go forward, we go forward and we try to get answers to questions and try to get the best, the safest site that we possibly can have for the state. We also have a responsibility to select the person who is the most qualified. I don't know of anyone else, no one else has been brought forth