

March 5, 1990

Wehrbein, you were next. Okay.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. President, members, I was going to speak on the other motion, but I will speak on this. I strongly oppose the bracket position and urge that we move ahead and appoint Mr. Thorson. I don't know him very well, I have worked with him in the past on other issues. But, as you go down the resume here, I can't imagine anyone really being stronger in their qualifications than he is. And I think even though we have strayed from the issue somewhat today, I don't think you're going to find anyone that is going to meet everybody's approval throughout the state. That shouldn't really be what we're all about, but should have someone that is qualified, even the opponents here admit that he's qualified. And I would think that we ought to proceed from that and go on from there, because we certainly want someone that is willing to speak their mind, say what the issues are as they see them, and I think that...Mr. Thorson fits the bill in this case. So I'd urge us to avoid this bracket. Let's face the issue, let's move ahead and appoint him. I, therefore, oppose the bracket.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Kristensen, please, followed by...were you through, Senator Wehrbein? Okay. Senator Kristensen, followed by Senator Morrissey and Senator Dierks. Senator Kristensen.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members. I want to just go back and finish my thoughts with this, and I think that it will also go to the bracket motion as well as to the actual confirmation. Dr. Thorson really is the weather vane. And what the other states are going to be looking at is, is everything smooth and calm in Nebraska. We've gotten down to one site at this point. This process has been probably one of the most mishandled processes in terms of our intentions were good. I think this Legislature's intentions were very good. But we entered into the area, quite frankly, blindly. We got into the area, and these monitoring committees were good ideas. And they're great ideas on paper, but they became lightning rods that really were the vehicle to tear up communities. I'm not sure Nuckolls County will ever, ever get back to the point that it was two years ago. And there is nothing that I can do about that right now on the floor of the Legislature, there is nothing that you can do about that. But we've also got to look at what's going to happen in the future. Right now Boyd County is probably the county that I'm most concerned about, because Boyd