

March 5, 1990

a letter from Dr. Thorson extending the possibility that they could ask him questions and he would try to answer them. I understand how busy a person he is, but I really think that a person who is eminently qualified, and who has been serving as our compact commissioner would make an effort to go there and see, first hand, what is going on and find out what the concerns are of the people that he's supposed to represent. That just hasn't happened. So when the confirmation hearing came up, these people came down to oppose that confirmation. Their opposition was legitimate. And I believe that the committee confirmation process is in jeopardy when we go and fly in the face of that sort of opposition and make the appointment anyway, qualifications aside. Here's a situation where we're asking someone, we're asking people to have faith and trust us, that we're doing right. And yet they haven't seen that trust and they haven't seen that faith, and they haven't seen the doing right yet. I wonder what we are asking of them when we ask them to support Dr. Thorson. There is a tremendous concern out there, and it isn't just from Boyd County, it's from two other counties as well. And I don't believe that it's just the issue at hand, because I do think there are people out there who are very qualified, who can handle this job, extremely qualified people. We have them right here in this Legislature that could be compact commissioners and do an excellent job for us. So I don't believe it's a question of whether we've got the most qualified men. I think there are many people who can do this. I think the question is, does the confirmation process work in this legislative body, or doesn't it? And I maintain at this point on this confirmation that it has not worked. This is not what the confirmation hearing told you, and yet you're ruling in...you're overruling the confirmation hearing, and I'm not sure why. I guess I still have that to be explained to me, how come this confirmation hearing is not being adhered to. I can't imagine that sort of support when you have no support at the hearing. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Peterson, please.

SENATOR PETERSON: Question.

PRESIDENT: The question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do. And the question is, shall debate cease? All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.