

March 5, 1990

PRESIDENT: Debate has ceased. Senator Dierks, would you close, please, on your motion to bracket.

SENATOR DIERKS: Yes, sir, Mr. President, I will. Members of the body, the motion is to bracket for two weeks. The purpose of the motion is that I believe we need to have some more information for the members of this body. There is enough evidence, as far as I'm concerned, that people are not completely satisfied with this confirmation process. I had hoped that I would be privy to some information on my desk that would explain why this should happen. I wasn't privy to that information. I think we all deserve that same information. I think two weeks time would give us ample opportunity for Dr. Thorson to write to us and tell us why he feels that this should happen, in light of the fact that the confirmation hearing was not all that supportive, in fact, it was really not supportive at all. That's the reason for the bracket. I think it's a reasonable request. I think some of the people who spoke in support of the confirmation this morning would support this bracket motion. And I urge that you...the rest of you do the same. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. The question is, shall the bill be bracketed? All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 8 ayes, 27 nays, Mr. President, on the motion to bracket.

PRESIDENT: The motion fails. Now we're back to the confirmation report. We'll continue on with the list that I have on the board, which is some 13 members. Senator McFarland is first, and Senator Schmit is second.

SENATOR MCFARLAND: Thank you, Mr. President. I'm a little disappointed in the bracket vote, although it's not unexpected how that vote registered. There is a particular momentum going on to just go ahead with all of these issues involving the nuclear waste site dump, to not listen to the questions being asked or the criticism being vented against this whole issue and blindly proceed down the path that we have been going for the past, what, six, seven years now. I think legitimate questions are being raised about the entire process, the appointment and confirmation of Mr. Thorson is just one of them. And I, like