

March 5, 1990

SENATOR McFARLAND: I would like that question answered for me. The second question is, this is being treated as a fait accompli, like this is already in the process and there is nothing we can do to turn around. My question is, why can't we withdraw from the compact altogether and either contract with another state to accept our waste, or handle our waste ourselves so we're not accepting waste from Louisiana and Arkansas and everywhere else? Why can't we do that? The only thing that I read in the law that's the penalty that we would have to pay would be a \$25,000 penalty to withdraw for five years. That's the only penalty. I've heard lots of allegations about all of the penalties that we would incur, if we withdrew. But I have yet to see any federal statute...

PRESIDENT: Time.

SENATOR McFARLAND: ...or any law specifically state that, and I would like to ask the question, show me, in federal statute or in federal law, where we would be penalized if we withdrew from the compact.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Mr. Clerk, I hear we have a priority motion.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Scofield would move to rerefer the confirmation back to the Natural Resources Committee.

PRESIDENT: Senator Scofield, please.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: I may have to amend that. I understand Senator Withem wants that referred to Education. You know, I came in here genuinely torn today about how I was going to vote on this, for reasons I explained earlier, and that's because of my respect for Norm Thorson's skill as an attorney. There isn't anybody in the state, frankly, I think, that has any better legal credentials. And I'll tell you what's got me very concerned and made me pause here are listening to Cap Dierks' comments and thinking, you know, but for the grace of God goes Daves County or Sioux County, we could be experiencing the same trauma that Boyd County is experiencing, or that Nuckolls County, or Nemaha County has experienced, and we did go through that, and I was reminded about some very difficult meetings we had in my district when we were still under consideration. And let me tell you, folks, there might have been a lot of expertise there, but the respect for the public was not there. And the