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temptation to do so is overwhelmingly strong in this instance, and I can do it as well as the next.

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: There comes a time when you have to make a decision based upon the qualifications, based upon the conflict of interest, based upon whether he's morally fit. Under those conditions, Dr. Thorson ranks number one in all. I suggest that he is qualified, he is capable, he is honest, he is morally fit, he ought to be confirmed and we ought not delay the process any further. And I would suggest that to do so is wrong. In conclusion, the accusations that we rubber stamp appointments is a false one, we do not do so. I have, from time to time, opposed confirmation. I have been subjected to criticism from both sides of the political spectrum for that, and I can handle that, doesn't make any difference to me. But the point is, that when you oppose, when you oppose an appointment you need something other than just the idea that we're going to have a sacrificial lamb; get rid of Thorson, all the problems go away. I might suggest, get rid of Thorson and appoint a less qualified person, ladies and gentlemen, your problems may just be in the beginning stage. I oppose the motion of Senator Scofield. I believe we should vote on the issue.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Langford, please, followed by Senator Elmer.

SENATOR LANGFORD: Mr. President, I call the question.

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

CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the motion to cease debate.

PRESIDENT: Debate has ceased. Senator Scofield, would you close, please.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Only briefly, Mr. President. I guess the response I'd have to make here is, what does this hurt? What's the worst thing that's going to happen, if we don't vote to confirm Norm Thorson today? And, in a way, he almost does become a sacrificial lamb, because he's the one that's in here