

March 5, 1990

who has really become the subject of discussion, when nobody in here is saying that the man is not eminently qualified. The issue is, I think, have all these other questions surrounding this whole process been answered to the satisfaction of the affected communities, and do we have enough assurance that the questions that have...legitimate questions, particularly about liability, are we satisfied that we're going to end up where we want to be? It's much like hiring a pilot to fly a plane. I don't have any question this man is a qualified pilot. The thing I'm questioning is, are we going to end up at the destination, are we giving him the direction to fly us where we want to be flown? I suggest that maybe a little delay on that wouldn't hurt a thing. And I guess it would give one more opportunity to try, in good faith, to address the concerns that all of us have. I don't think anybody in here is absolutely confident that we have asked all the right questions and found all the right answers. If we were that smart, we would have done that back in 1983. There isn't any one of us who doesn't wish that they would have asked different questions, and pushed harder at certain points than we pushed. And I guess I see this as a place where I have an obligation to push one more time. I ask you to refer this back to committee, temporarily, to give Dr. Thorson the opportunity to deal with this in good faith, as I know he will, for the Governor to deal with this in good faith, as I believe she will, and for all of us to say, okay, I'm standing up here and I'm taking responsibility for this and I'm not going to just pass it along. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. The question is, shall the resolution be referred to a committee? All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 10 ayes, 24 nays, Mr. President, on the rereferral.

PRESIDENT: Motion fails. Back to the confirmation report. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Hefner would move to suspend Rule 7, Sections 3 and 7, and vote on the confirmation report of Dr. Thorson without further amendment or debate.

PRESIDENT: Senator Hefner, please.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I hate to put a motion like this up, but I think that we've spent