

March 5, 1990

went on ever since, I think, 1983 when this first came before the Legislature, and I'm talking about generally the people in our state and the people who are concerned about this problem. The process is an unending one. This is just one part of it. Actually, if you look at the committee hearings, I think the committee has done a wonderful job, and has shown considerable restraint on a very controversial issue. I have never objected to the amount of time I've been given to voice my views, or I've been treated courteously before the committee. I think they have been subjected to a lot of lobbying and a lot of pressure and a lot of criticism, and I think a lot of it's unjustified. They have done a good job as far as hearing everyone's point of view. And that's something, I think, all of us expect when we accept a position in the Legislature, that there are going to be issues of controversy that arise and we have to make decisions on them. What I'm concerned about is the entire process that has gone on since this whole compact issue and the location of the nuclear waste site dump has been brought before the Legislature. I don't think we have proceeded with very much restraint or with sufficient consideration of all the alternatives available. And one of the alternatives that I really think is still available to us, and what I've read in my research indicates is withdrawal from the compact. Now, everyone throws up their hands and rolls their eyes and says, oh, no, not at this stage are you going to consider it. But it can be considered and can be done as far as I understand it. Governor Blanchard, in fact, in Michigan was exactly threatening to do that just a year ago when he threatened to take Michigan out of their compact. But he did not, and Michigan did not withdraw from the compact because there were many concessions made in compact language with respect to issues of liability and those kinds of things that were done. So, what I am saying is don't just accept this process as something that is unalterable, as something that has to occur, that we've went too far and we can't go back, because my research on the issue, and my reading of the statutes and reading of the compact language indicates we can and we should. And we should, in fact, consider as a viable alternative withdrawing from the compact, contracting with another state, or handling our own waste on our...by ourselves and not being required to accept the waste of the...the nuclear waste from all of the other states. That's what I'm saying. This issue almost reminds me to bring up another unmentionable word, it reminds me of the Commonwealth legislation, where everyone passed that legislation in the Legislature, it was overwhelmingly supported, no one raised the questions that