

March 5, 1990

going to have to play. And so I would ask that that be added to his role, that he sees himself as in his information provider service, as I titled it anyway to him in the question that we asked.

PRESIDENT: Time.

SENATOR SMITH: I'm sorry, I'm out of time. I may have to come back. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Labeledz, please, followed by Senator Dierks. I don't see Senator Labeledz. Senator Dierks, would you go ahead, followed by Senator Morrissey.

SENATOR DIERKS: Mr. President and members of the body, I do believe that Senator Landis had some good suggestions for us before we recessed. Some of the questions that I think that he asked were very valid. But I guess the problem I've got with some of those is, if we confirm Dr. Thorson today without knowing what the answers are to those questions, how do we know if those questions will be answered after confirmation? The questions haven't been answered before confirmation. Why do we think that with this confirmation that those questions will then be answered? This is a problem that the people that I represent have with the whole issue, is that they have not been heard. The only response that they had was if they had some questions, they could write them to him and he'd try to answer them in a letter. That doesn't quite cut it with the people I represent. They want to see the man out there. And, like Senator Smith said, it could be tough. I'll guarantee you it will be tough, but that's part of the proposition. If he's going to take the job, he's got to expect the tough part of it to go with it. I think that means you come to the county that is involved, those counties that are involved. I think you're there and you try to answer those questions. That's just part of the whole business. I'm sure it would be a little bit distasteful, but I think that's again part of the job. If you take the...if you want to have this position, then I think that's part of the proposition. I still can't vote to confirm this man. I just think that the process is wrong. And I have to also tell you one thing that Senator McFarland said, I, too, have been treated with respect at that committee hearing. But I do think that we're there for a purpose when we're doing these confirmation hearings, and I think the purpose was not fulfilled, when I see so many people in opposition to a confirmation and only one person in favor of