

be supporting Senator Morrissey's amendment. It was the intent of the sponsors of the bill, at least in the committee, that they wanted the...they wanted this matter expedited in the manner of taking it up before the Supreme Court, and that is fine, but as I stated earlier, there is a number of concerns that I have in the fact of the actual transcript, the manner in which the hearing is conducted. It is going to be done before a person that works for that department, that is paid by them. There is absolutely very little, if any, protection for these people that may have some concerns, and when we are talking about as serious a matter as low-level nuclear waste, I feel that there should be...it should be done before an impartial person, rather than someone that is paid by the department, and that is why I am supporting Senator Morrissey's amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Abboud. Senator Dierks, on the Morrissey amendment.

SENATOR DIERKS: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I would rise in support of Senator Morrissey's amendment. This does, I think, some of what we asked in that first amendment I brought. It does provide us with the ability to hear more complete testimony, and I think that that is the way our government is supposed to work. It looks to me like this would be an excellent adjunct to the committee amendments. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Dierks. Senator Rod Johnson on the Morrissey amendment.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. President, members, I will oppose the Morrissey amendment. I am not sure what new information will be available. Everything that is done prior to the coming to the Supreme Court is recorded. I am not an attorney, so I can't really comment on how the procedure works, but I am just curious as to what new information might come to light prior to going to the court. You are, basically, opening up the issue all over again. I just don't feel it is necessary.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Rod Johnson.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: May I relinquish the rest of my time to Senator Lindsay.

SPEAKER BAACK: Yes, Senator Lindsay.