

do what Senator Morrissey wants you to do. Why don't we kick up our heels this once.

**SPEAKER BAACK:** Time. Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Dierks.

**SENATOR DIERKS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. I've asked you, several times here, in the past three years to think for yourselves. I've pleaded with you to do that. A year ago I stood here and pleaded with you not to appoint...or not to approve the appointment of Dr. Thorson to the compact commission. Senator Morrissey and I, as I recall, were the only two, possibly there were some others, that spent a lot of time trying to convince you that this was not a good appointment. We must have been wrong, but I think we were right. There were three of us, I guess, that had that audacity to stand here and do that. Where does it all lead? How can anyone say it's over and done with? Will this trail trickle down to individuals in the bureaucracy and Boyd County, political figures, lobbyists, where's it going to end? I wish it were simple, I wish it hadn't happened. But it did, and we have a real responsibility to the constituency of this state to see that it's well addressed, it's well cared for and the citizens are protected. And I think we begin those protective devices with amendments like Senator Morrissey brought to us today. That was where we should have been three years ago, but we got our walking orders and we didn't get that amendment passed. The walking orders that day were nothing gets accepted, absolutely nothing. We were stymied at every turn. The citizens that I represent felt that the government had abandoned them. This year they have a little bit of hope. And maybe the hope has been advanced with the advent of the last couple days. I think that we've stumbled along a long time. I think it's time for us to quit stumbling, I think it's time for us to think for ourselves. I don't think we need to have the lobby telling us how to think on this issue. The people that I represent do not have that high paid lobby. I don't have any particular high paid lobby out there helping me decide how to do these things. There's about three or four of us that kind of come around and decide well maybe this is good, or maybe it isn't, and then we try to come up with the amendments that make it good. And still we fight the bureaucracy, or we fight the lobby. I think it's time for us to come to grips with this situation, think for ourselves, and pass these type amendments as Senator Morrissey is bringing to us today. I support that amendment, and I hope you will, too.