

March 8, 1982

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CLERK: 8 ayes, 21 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of Senator Newell's amendment.

PRESIDENT: Motion failed and any further amendments, Mr. Clerk?

CLERK: I have nothing at this time, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Senator Schmit, did you...Senator Newell, did you wish to discuss now the resolution as it is? Senator Newell.

SENATOR NEWELL: I want to ask Senator Schmit a question or two. Senator Schmit, is it your intention this resolution will bind us to joining the Central states before we have had public input?

SENATOR SCHMIT: I have told you, Senator Newell, that the resolution does not bind us. It is specific in that it says we shall join the Central states but nothing can be done until we have a bill before us. We are going to, as I have told you earlier, hold public hearings. We have held public hearings in the past. The Ag and Environment Committee had an interim resolution upon it. The decision to join the Central states was resolved at that and the discussions held by myself, Mr. Drain and others. The function of the compact, Senator Newell, is primarily an executive function...thank you, Senator Newell.

SENATOR NEWELL: Just a moment...yes, I just want to ask specific questions to get specific answers. Is it your intentions to have your committee, Ag and Environment, hold hearings or is it a commitment to have the Department hold hearings? What is the situation in terms of the hearings, very briefly?

SENATOR SCHMIT: The Department will hold hearings, period. The Committee on Agriculture and Environment will hold hearings, period.

SEBATOR NEWELL: You will both hold hearings?

SENATOR SCHMIT: We will both hold hearings.

SENATOR NEWELL: And that is a commitment?

SENATOR SCHMIT: That is a commitment. I want to reassure you again, the reason the Department does that is because of the executive nature of the function.

SENATOR NEWELL: And the reason that the committee does that is because of....?