

perhaps no place to go. So, therefore, it is rather important that we enact this legislation. There is a chance, of course, that Nebraska would become the repository. But if we do not do something, it is a guarantee that we will become. It is not something we are looking for. It is not really a dangerous thing. As long as we're going to have hospitals and use this type of equipment, we are going to develop a certain amount of low level radioactive waste. I'm not sure exactly how broad the problem is at the present time, but I know that we have been pursuing this now for about six years and this is the culmination of that many years of effort.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Thank you. I agree with you. It is a problem, and we need to face it. I was just curious, could we become, if we were voted out, would that mean then that we only had to deal with our own waste, or would we also be subject to dumping by other states? I'm not sure how all that works.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Well, I really don't know what protection we would have if we are not a member of a compact state. Maybe Senator Johnson might know more about that than I do. But there is some possibility...perhaps you would like to comment on that, Senator Johnson. Okay. Senator Johnson says he will check on it. There was that indication at one time that if we are not a member of a compact state that we really do not have any protection. And I don't know what the results would be. But I remember the early...the very early meetings we had on this. I attended several of them in Oklahoma, Kansas, and there was some concern about states who just didn't want to be a part of a compact. They just said, well, we will just keep on shipping our waste somewhere else. And it was made very clear to us, by states that were the present recipient of that waste, that they didn't choose to continue to accommodate those of us who didn't want to join. So it was determined that we would join. We did join the central states compact, rather than several others which were proposed, because there is a very small amount of waste generated in this general area as opposed to, for example, having joined a state that might include a more populous state such as Illinois, Ohio, or those states to the east of us. So I believe that we made the best choice possible. We need to continue to use this type of equipment that generates this waste. Therefore, we need to make a responsible effort to provide for its