

February 17, 1976

have a constitutional right to be uninformed. There's nothing in the state of the federal Constitution that requires you to know what you're talking about, to understand what you're voting on, or any of the things that Senator Cavanaugh talked about. Now you might impose an ethical duty on yourself, but you have a right to be uninformed.

I think that once you make a serious decision you ought to burn your bridges behind you and you ought to burn your boats. Then you have crossed the Rubicon, the dye is cast and you must proceed forward. Once you've made up your mind to do something and you put your physical substance, your body, in a position which you've done by punching this button to advance this resolution thus far, let your mind go along with what your body has done. Don't be divided in your mind. Don't have these conflicting opinions. Do not have the fear that has been played upon this morning. Your manhood and your womanhood are being challenged here this morning, and there might be a palpitation of your heart, a lump in your stomach as you contemplate the votes you're going to cast this morning, but you should have thought about those things when you signed the resolution.

There is such a thing as withdrawing your support from a bill or resolution by unanimous consent or any other method. Since it's been brought to your attention if you don't withdraw your name from supporting this resolution then you ought to go ahead and support it.

I feel that, as Senator Cavanaugh pointed out, it is appropriate at any time to change your mind if you have enough facts and information to cause you to shift your position. But there is a difference between changing your mind and changing your principles. I think some very profound and extraordinary principles are involved in this entire issue. If you're not going to withdraw your name from the resolution you ought to support it. It seems to me that at any point, even now that I'm closing, anybody who chose to withdraw support from the resolution could probably do so. But if you don't withdraw your support and you don't stand by your signature it tells something of some kind to various people about what your signature and your promised support means. When you sign it you ought to stand by it, unless for some reason you want to repudiate your signature. You ought to do that, not by voting against what you committed yourself to do on that board, you ought to be just as bold and straightforward in repudiating it as you were when you signed it. It appears in the Journal. I'm not threatening anybody by reading off that list of names. I didn't put a single persons name there.

I think the resolution ought to be advanced and everybody present this morning who signed it ought to vote for its advancement, or officially and formally withdraw support by asking that his or her name be taken off.

PRESIDENT: The question is shall the resolution be advanced. Record your vote. Have you voted? There's been a request for a record vote, Mr. Clerk. Senator Lewis. Record vote. Record Mr. Clerk.