

SENATOR HARRIS: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I rise to support the resolution. I have traveled throughout the state in the past three weeks, spent time in my hometown of McCook, Nebraska, visited with business people, with people from all walks of life, and I have yet to meet a person who thinks that the President's decision in regard to this resolution and what it covers was anything but ill-advised and I plan to support the resolution because of the phrase which is not trying to dictate to the President or to the federal government but to let him know how we feel about this decision and that is the phrase that says "WHEREAS, the ill-advised act of the President may be misperceived by the rest of the world as representing the will of the American people and may appear to be a pardoning of all unpunished war crimes." I, for one, do not want the world to see a misperception as to my feeling and the feeling of the average Nebraskan. I urge the support of the resolution. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, this is one of these days that I probably shouldn't be standing up to speak because it is so easy to be misunderstood on a resolution of this nature but I think it is a more difficult question than perhaps has been presented to you. First of all, let me say, and I hope it is obvious, no American has any sympathy for Nazism, no American would ever try, I hope, to whitewash the history of the Holocaust. Having said that, let me then say that I have a couple of questions, that maybe the factual...the answer to the factual questions, in fact I think upon the answer to the factual questions will depend to a great extent my attitude towards this particular resolution. I don't know what kind of cemetery this is. I understand that there are 30 SS soldiers buried there. If this is an SS cemetery and almost all the soldiers buried there are SS soldiers, then I cannot understand in any sense how the President of the United States could go there. If on the other hand, this is a German soldier cemetery and there happened to be 30 SS soldiers buried there, 30 out of 2,000 or 5,000 or 10,000, then I think that perhaps it is a different kind of question in my mind because not all German soldiers by any means were Nazis and not all Nazis knew of or participated in some aspects of the Nazi program that history has shown us to