

even in time of war. I do not condemn errors by political persons because all of us have made them, but I do question and what I do criticize is our failure to express our opinion relative to such an error when we see it.

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: I am convinced that the President of the United States meant no harm by his visit to the cemetery at Bitburg. That does not excuse the fact that it was an error in judgment on someone's part. Abraham Lincoln once said, and I paraphrase, stand by your friend when he is right, but abandon him when he is wrong, I do not mean abandonment in the literal sense, but to leave that individual when he is wrong. I believe that we must convey to the President that we think it is wrong, just as wrong for us to be silent as it was to make the decision in the first place. And I want to say again and I'll have more to say about it later, the time will come when those of us who today have the ability and are in the position to do something about it may be as severely criticized for our inaction to help the people who are starving to death in other parts of the world as today the press, the editorial writers, the politicians are critical of Nazi Germany.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Time. Senator Chambers, please, then Senator Hefner.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, Senator Schmit made some very sobering comments and it would be probably easier for me if I follow my emotional bent to talk about the issues he raised relative to Africa and the starving people, but the purpose of the resolution is to deal with an error in judgment that has been committed by the President and which he seems at this point intent to carry through on. I was asked by one or two senators how this whole Bitburg trip came about in the first place. None of us have all the details, but a little background you can gather here and there. This economic summit was scheduled for June. Helmut Kohl the Chancellor of West Germany is going to face an election around the middle of May. There is an opponent rising who may be able to seriously challenge Kohl in the future so Kohl wants to put a stop to it. To buttress his political fortunes he prevailed on Reagan to work to change the date of the economic summit to a day prior to the election. He then