

established the visit to this particular cemetery. There is no way that anybody can say that Kohl and his advisers did not know about the SS soldiers buried at Bitburg. What Kohl wants from Reagan is not reconciliation. What Kohl wants is political backing for the election coming up a few days after Reagan's visit to Bitburg and that is why Kohl is so adamant on keeping Reagan on his knees and telling him to ignore the wishes of the American people relative to this visit. Congress and the Senate, both political parties, have tried to prevail on the President to change his mind and not do this dastardly thing, but the issue is one of politics with Kohl. He doesn't care what becomes of Reagan. His voters are in Germany. What people need to realize is that those SS individuals were not soldiers. Waffen means armed. They were the armed SS. They were the guards of the concentration camps. It was the SS leaders who put together the "final solution of the Jewish problem". Some people cannot envision what a vicious regime the Third Reich was. They didn't just do it to the Jews. They tortured, put into slave labor and starved Russian prisoners of war. They violated the Hague and Geneva Conventions by forcing prisoners of war to work for I.G. Farben and his chemical plants and for the Krupp firm in the making of munitions and arms, violations of the Geneva and Hague Conventions, but it made no difference to Nazi Germany. They can't say, as some people want to, that the German people did not know when they would bring the Russian prisoners into Germany after they had worked them almost to death and wanted to take them to a place of execution, many of them were too weak even to walk to that place so they were shot on the spot in the face of all of the German populous. There was a man named Otto Ohlendorf, an SS officer, who ran Auschwitz for a period of time.

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: He pointed out that they were to destroy these Jews in secret and they were burning up to 6,000 a day. He said the foul and nauseating stench of perpetually burning flesh permeated the whole area and everybody in the surrounding community knew that exterminations were occurring. They cannot say people didn't know. They can't say Reagan's people don't know what the SS was. They can't say Kohl doesn't know, but because what Kohl does know is what makes this whole trip such a reprehensible affair. Knowing what the SS is he is insisting that Reagan pay