

25 years in a row there has been a ceremony by the four great powers that were involved in World War II, West Germany, Russia, the United States and France. For 25 years they've had a relatively simple ceremony commemorating the peace and the termination of hostilities and I think that's all that was intended this time. And I think to give credence to one group or another to take and use what was intended otherwise maybe, maybe not too wisely, to take and make it something completely different to force any group to repudiate, denounce and heel on the basis of simply a visit to Bitburg is inappropriate and I think does not necessarily improve either our stature or the stature of anybody. It may have been a blunder, there may not have been everything taken into consideration when the commitment was made, but probably even more serious would be using this situation as an opportunity to denounce the President or denounce what was intended in a completely different fashion.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Time. Senator Schmit, please, and then Senator Landis.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President, only briefly, then I will yield the rest of my time to Senator Chambers. I'd just like to say this, that I support President Reagan. I support him wholeheartedly as an individual. I support him when he is right, I disagree with him when he is wrong. I believe he is wrong. I believe that for me to not say that I think he is wrong is in error. You cannot, by any stretch of the imagination, compare the men of the SS with the ordinary German soldier. Time after time after time, if you read the books of history, you read the adjective, the hated SS, the feared SS. You do not read the SS. It was their job to spread fear, terror, death among the German people, particularly with the Jewish people, but again, not only the Jewish people. Many other people died, Poles, Russians, non-Jewish Germans also who disagreed with the regime. So I think it is important that we do not forget. I'd like to yield the rest of my time to Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, we all know that what happened at the hands of the Nazis was unlike anything that had happened in history up to that period or since. Senator DeCamp knows that SS is short for Schutzstaffel or special guard. They initially were Hitler's special personal bodyguard. Then they became the elite corps of the Nazi militia. Then they became those