

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, my first inclination was to have Senator Chambers close on the resolution. He could have done it more eloquently than I. I do not have his command of the language, nor do I have the wit of Senator DeCamp and his understanding of the issue as he has portrayed it and he has done a good job of it. I'd just like to comment on a couple of the points that Senator DeCamp has raised. He said we want to be careful that the issue isn't misused, that the fact that 40 SS men lie buried in a cemetery where 2,000 German soldiers die should not necessarily mean that the President should not visit that cemetery. I want to point out that it is just as possible, just as likely for the visit to be misconstrued on the other side, that the President views it as a casual visit, which I'm sure he does not anymore if he ever did. The SS were not ordinary soldiers. Their specific purpose was fear, terror, murder, annihilation. That is why they were created. The ordinary German citizen and the ordinary German soldier had the same fear and concern of the SS as did the Poles, the Czechs, many other persons against whom they were arrayed. Man's inhumanity to man then knew no parallel to that which was demonstrated by the SS individuals in Germany. A year and a half ago it was my opportunity to visit in Germany, visit my son who was stationed over there. One of the first places he took us was to a concentration camp and he said, you know, many people from Nebraska come to Germany, look me up and visit. They want to be taken to see the sights. He said one of the first places I take them is to a concentration camp because people should not be allowed to forget that this actually happened. It is all too easy to say it didn't happen, never occurred, and then we say, well, what is likely to happen is not so bad or is happening now, as I said earlier, in Africa, Cambodia, we know of many other countries, is not perhaps so bad, we can overlook it. I have said before and I say it again that to disregard the actions that took place more than 40 years ago is a mistake and today we find many people who have decided to extol all those occasions and say, well, it happened, it was too bad, but that is war. That is not war. That was a war of annihilation, the systematic attempts to exterminate 6 million Jewish people. I paraphrased an individual once before on this floor. I do not recall the exact language, but they said something like this. When Hitler came for the Jew I was not a Jew and so I did not worry. When he came for the Catholic I was not a Catholic so I did not worry.