

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I'm speaking only because I feel compelled to speak when I want to vote no. It has nothing to do with the naming of Senator Gerdes, because I served with him too. I firmly believe that maybe the State Office Building ought to have a non-person name, rather than selecting some individual. I guess I would prefer even if the State Office Building..we do have recognition in the Capitol for distinguished citizens up on the second floor here. We recognize previous Governors' on the first floor. I think there is talk about recognizing all legislators in some room in this building when it is redone. Perhaps it would be appropriate to have some recognition, type of display in the new office building for individuals who have had distinguished service in the state with appropriate criteria, that could be developed. I feel I will have to vote no on the resolution, although I have supported it in the past, with the hope that a name will be selected which will be an appropriate name, recognizing it as an office building of the state, but not carrying the name of any individual.

PRESIDENT: Senator Schmit. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature. These are those motherhood, patriotism issues. I'm going to vote against the resolution, but I think I should do more than merely cast an anonymous vote, I should state for the record why I'm opposed to it. I was in the Legislature for a brief time while George Gerdes was about the Capitol Building. But in total honesty, I know nothing about the man. He and I had very little personal contact. I didn't even know he had been a Senator here until after he had died and I read some comments about it in the newspaper. With the opposition I gave to Senator Lewis in trying to name the Sports Complex after Devaney, it would be totally inconsistent for me to take an individual whom I know nothing about and follow the lead of others who may have had very pleasant experiences with this individual, and may have a very high regard for him. Since I don't know him there is no way in the world I could vote to name anything after him. It is not just Mr. Gerdes, but anybody else whose name would be presented to me for a vote of endorsement when I have no personal knowledge of that person. If Senator Warner's words were taken seriously, we might consider what he stated as a principle to utilize in establishing a pattern or a method of determining names for structures and buildings, and what types of names ought to be attached. During a moment of emotional fervor people may be moved to do something without total knowledge, which the later on will regret that they have done. Knowing the temperament of legislators, as I've come to know it in the seven years that I've been here, courage and strength are not two of the main characteristics. There are mistakes which are made, but there is a fear to back away from the mistake and acknowledge that was done was incorrect and it should be corrected. I am not going to make that mistake here today. I am not going to vote for this resolution. If the names of any other people are suggested for buildings, I would require a lot more information than I have on this gentleman before I vote yes for that too. I want the record to note and show why I'm not voting for this resolution.

PRESIDENT: Senator Newell.