

We do a disservice to our good name in not having a public hearing on this important matter. Senator Newell referred to it as "momentous". I suspect that it is momentous. We are operating with an Attorney General's opinion which says simply that it may well be that a rejection of an amendment is of no validity but then it may well not be that the rejection of an amendment is of no validity. I'm not going to operate on that kind of a basis. I don't think that this body should either. We should subject this amendment to the full public hearing process. We should think about this over the interim. We should get back together and then if we want to proceed we at least can proceed with full knowledge and we will at least have provided the citizens of this state an opportunity to be heard on this matter. I wholeheartedly support Senator Newell's motion and ask this body to do the same.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Kahle do you wish to speak to the Newell motion?

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. Speaker, it is pretty hard to argue with those that have spoken but again I think the pulse that I get from my people back home is that they have no intention and no desire to see the District of Columbia become a state. As far as I am concerned I would just as soon vote on it now and make a decision. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. Speaker, this is too serious an issue to call the previous question. This body often times wonders why citizens often look at us as being totally irresponsible. This may be one of the moments that they look at, regardless of their feelings on the D.C. issue. Because those individuals who created this great Constitution, this America, did not proceed under such a condition as we are about to proceed under this afternoon. I signed this resolution at one time. But after I got to studying the resolution and the impact and knowing that it would possibly go through this body without a hearing, I withdrew my name. I stand here this afternoon to say that regardless of what the voting will be, this body has a sincere responsibility to place it before the committee for a public hearing. If not, then why do we have such rules as we have under Rule 4, Section 2. This indeed is a very serious resolution. For us to enact this in a few moments a day would be just as bad as that body committed itself once to in the early days when they did ERA, and I remember as a lobbyist, they did it in 15 minutes. They wanted to beat someone to the punch. Then they later