

in this matter to express their views.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Lewis.

SENATOR LEWIS: Mr. President, I don't particularly care to get crossways in this issue and I'm going to try to report to you precisely how we tried to handle the issue at hand. First of all I did sign the resolution and I do support Senator Haberman's attempt not to include Washington, D.C. as a state and treated by representation for other reasons but I don't want to talk about that. I want to refer you to what we have said, each of you have a copy from Tom of my staff in terms of how we referenced the bill. It is important to note two things. There are two Attorney General opinions in your Journals, opinion number 71 issued to me, located on page 1288, which says the Legislature may handle this matter in any way they choose. The more important one is opinion number 79, located on 1393 which says this does not bind future legislatures. In my judgment, in my judgment this is merely an expression on the part of the Legislature about how they feel about that issue and is not part of the binding approach, it is a ratification. So guess what I am saying to you. The reference committee felt in terms of the wording, in terms of the issue at hand if Senator Haberman wished to come forward and have an expression from this Legislature he certainly could do so. In my judgement that is all that it will be as it is currently written. I think that you will find that verified with the two Attorney General opinions. Again, I for one, am not going to get involved in terms of the debate today, but I do think that there were some people saying that the Reference Committee did not act properly in terms of this issue. It is clear to me that the choices available to us were pursued in a correct and logical fashion.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Simon.

SENATOR SIMON: Mr. President, members of the body. I rise in opposition to LR 30. I do so basically from the standpoint that I feel contrary to my good friend Senator Lewis and certainly an argument can be made for either case but this is a very important resolution. It is much too important to be done hastily on the waning days of the session, before a half empty body of senators who want to get home and conduct other business. I have heard it said, don't confuse me with the facts, my mind is made up. Certainly that is the case we all are thirty. You have got thirty-two senators who have co-sponsored this resolution. I have been down here long enough that I can see the hand writing on the wall. So perhaps this is no more than an exercise in futility on my