

it themselves, they ought to pull it back which is sort of a very preposterous sort of proposal in the first place. Consequently what we are doing is we are making a sham of the whole process. For that reason we offer this to refer to the Government and Military Affairs Committee. Now I will not make any pretense, I am opposed to this proposal the way it is drafted. I favor giving the District of Columbia voting representation in Congress. The reason we chose the Government Committee is that it seems to be an issue which relates to Government. I would have far preferred the Miscellaneous Subjects Committee but I know that that might have been more than this body would be willing to accept. It should, in fact, go to the Government Committee. It should not be discussed just by the Executive Board and referred to General File. It should be debated as our rules require, or at least suggest and for that reason I would hope that you would support, you will return this bill. There is seven years to act on this. We need not reject nor pass or act in anyway at this time. For that reason we have time, haste, the same mistake that we made when we hastily accepted the ERA as many of those conservatives have said. Those people.....

SPEAKER MARVEL: Your time is up.

SENATOR NEWELL: Those people who were opposing that we will be making now if we act today, especially when we haven't had a public hearing.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Your time is up. Senator Johnson do you wish to speak to the motion now which is the Newell motion to send the bill to the Government Committee?

SENATOR JOHNSON: Yes, I do Mr. Speaker, members of the body. It is eminently sensible to send this bill to the Government Committee for thorough public hearing and review. I am surprised, in fact, that 32 of my colleagues could sign a resolution where the Republican Party, my party and the Democratic Party, the part of many other members in here has wholeheartedly supported the constitutional amendment, when the Congress of the United States has seen the virtue in a constitutional amendment, when, in fact, the opponents, I happened to receive in the mail two days ago a publication from the John Birch Society opposing this amendment. I say that this amendment needs to be fully considered. It is wrong for this body to hastily run through the repudiation or the rejection of a constitutional amendment without at least allowing the public in this state an opportunity to be heard. After all this amendment has virtue to it or it would not have been passed by Congress, or would not have been endorsed by the republicans, or would not have been endorsed by the democrats, and given that kind of virtue at least it deserves a public hearing. We do a disservice to the legislative process.