

witnesses. Basically there was a process that says the state does have authority to interpret whether or not this person believes as they say they do and whether or not they should be allowed an exemption from combat. At the same time we say that they must provide some sort of alternative service but the relationship there is that they must answer to the state. Now thinking through that, I decided to try and look at some other court cases where those who interpret the U.S. Constitution try and decide again when the Constitution and the Bill of Rights says Congress shall make no laws with regards to religion, what exactly does that mean in terms of implementation? And surprisingly one of the most relevant cases I guess it was, people did research for me was one that dealt with the question of polygamy in the Mormon Church, an issue that at one time was a very heated issue in the United States. And there were those who maintained that for the basis of their faith that they should be allowed to practice polygamy even though the state had laws against them. Now what was the decision in the courts? Was that, if I use the phrase right, that the freedom of religion was not absolute, that you simply could not say, my religion allows me to do this, therefore, the state cannot in any way limit my activities. It was decided that, in fact, the state did have some authority even in a question of religious belief. The distinction was you can believe whatever you want but that doesn't mean the state must give you the privilege to do whatever you want.

SENATOR NICHOL: A minute.

SENATOR FOWLER: Now that is kind of the interpretation as I have been able to determine with regards to the question of freedom of religion and the Bill of Rights. Now the people supporting the Peterson-DeCamp amendment believe very sincerely that that is not the relationship they should have to the state and I respect their right to believe that. But as I can interpret what others have said and this is not what Steve Fowler's belief is, personally arrived at, but rather reading what people have said the Bill of Rights in the United States consists of and that is that the state, in fact, does have a right to put limits on people's activities and to require standards even if people believe that their religion says they should not follow that and the question of whether we're talking about Selective Service, whether you're talking about people claiming a religious right not to pay income taxes, whether you're talking about people claiming a religious right to only have a certain diet available in public institution, whether you are talking about people who claim their religion allows them to practice polygamy. In all