

can have an effect and can slow down a dominating majority when that majority is dominating for the sheer pleasure of dominating because they want their views. And the south died for defending that. And I would beg you, the north died as well. And at the end of that, my friends, when reconstruction came there were laws in the United States Senate and the United States House of Representatives that guaranteed, that guaranteed a way that a minority, if they felt it was important enough, could delay, if indeed not stop the majority from dominating. Oh, I will be the first to admit every year they have the same debates in Congress. The majority gets tired of the minority slowing them down. Wouldn't it be nice if we could just vote and be over with it, done with it. And you know every year the Senate of the United States, in particular, has the courage to say, though it would be convenient, it is not what this country is about. I want the body to discuss, I would be fascinated to hear the discussions of the members that are supporting majority dominance. I would love to hear their arguments on the floor. And I, very well, may ask each and every one of you, personally, why, what justification, what democratic principle, where do we go back in history to set the precedent that you can support taking away a right of Americans? I would love to have each and every one of you on record of whatever fear you had. Members of the body, this issue now is not about abortion. This issue right now is about how the body is going to look in the eyes of its people. When eastern Europe is changing so drastically, so dramatically, people are crying for democratic rights. You have what have been considered minority groups that have died, that have had sit-ins, that have had food strikes and they now are changing the tide of oppression. They look to the United States for a guide.

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: And I pray they do not look here, because we are showing the image of a leviathan. We are showing and telling all people, whether in North Platte, Nebraska, Lewellen, Brady, Utica, Warsaw, it makes no difference where in the world or Nebraska, we are sending a message, and that is on this particular issue we are going to deny rights. And, my friends, do not fool yourselves. Once a right is denied the dam is burst, it's easy to do it again. And that's why democracies fail, my friends, because it's so easy for the majority to take away the rights when it suits them.