

SPEAKER BAACK PRESIDING

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Landis. We will now proceed to Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, flags, especially during a time like this when there is war fervor, sham patriotism, huckstering, jangling, clanging commercialism, based on the fact that a lot of young men and women have been sent from this country to a place in the world where they should not be, in the first place, all of these things combined to make this particular bill seem to be alluring, there is even hoaxes...are hoaxes going on with reference to POWs and MIAs. There was an article the other day in the paper where a commander mentioned that he listed a person as being missing in action instead of killed in action in order that the family can get greater benefits because the survivors of one killed in action get a smaller benefit than the family of those who are missing. War is a time and an opportunity for all types of exploitation and misuse of principles. This bill I don't think is any good whether it's permissive or mandatory. I'm troubled by what I see this country doing in the Middle East. That is not a war for democracy. That is not a war to liberate Kuwait. It is a race war. Never in the history of the world has such a huge massing of human beings and war technology been assembled for the purpose of demolishing a small country and its people. All of the political hypocrites talk about Saddam Hussein being a mad man, yet he has held this country and the world, 27 other countries, at bay. They have had wall to wall bombing of Iraq, killing civilians, committing war crimes, violating the Geneva Conventions, and then there is a pretense by people that this is done in the name of justice and democracy. They are testing and experimenting weapons on innocent people, destroying shrines, devastating the very cradle of human civilization. It is a war by the racist elements of the United States of America against the Arab and Muslim interests in the Middle East. The people of the Middle East don't support what their governments do who have united with the United States. This is a terrible thing which is occurring in the world today. The voices of politicians have virtually been stilled. The citizens who are concerned about the unnecessary and unjustified death of young people in a cause that is unjust and immoral, those people are being set upon and made to appear to be criminals. Two weeks ago, on television, Americans were parading before the cameras captured Iraqi soldiers which