

February 20, 1991

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Robinson. Senator Dierks.

SENATOR DIERKS: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, this issue with me has been very simple right from the very first time I heard about it. There was never any doubt in my mind how we should come down on the issue. I feel that we're all here because of the same ideals and that is the principle of the right of the majority. The majority of the people in Gage County supported Senator Byars and I support the people and the way that they voted. To me it's not a partisan issue. To me it is not an issue of who is the better man. It is not an issue of right or...well, it is an issue of right or wrong. It is an issue of fairness I think and I think that as far as I am concerned we are supported rights of those people that cast their ballots. I have so much respect for Senator Warner for his historical perspective that he brings here. I really feel that we're voting today on an issue that may not mirror the way that other legislators have voted on these issues and it may not be representative of how other legislators vote on the issue 10 years from now. We're doing today what we're doing today and we have to answer for that. I don't have any qualms of conscience about the way I voted and I probably will not have because I feel very strongly about my position here. I guess that I don't have an awful lot of problem with what Senator Hall is trying to do here and one of the problems I've had from the beginning was that we took a vote yesterday and it wasn't, as far as I'm concerned it was decisive, one vote decisiveness, but yet there seemed to be those who think that that was not a decisive vote and we have to go back and revisit the issue. In my estimation we should have gone directly to the minority report and voted it up or down and here we are still fooling around with it. I don't believe, Senator Robinson, the same way you do about the 95 votes at issue. At first blush I did, but after I thought about that I remembered the reason those 95 votes were thrown out were because of voter error, not electioneers error. But these 530 and some votes or 50 some were thrown out on the basis of error on the part of election officials, not on error on the part of voters. These are the reasons that I am supporting the issue the way that I am and I would urge that we get to the issue, get it over with and be done with it.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Dierks. Mr. Clerk, an amendment of the desk.