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require the flying of our flags of sovereignty, if there are administrators who wish to do so, let them do this at the local level; if they are shy, let them be shy; if they don't feel like this is in the range of their discretion, this is not the kind of thing that we should be passing in our statutes and ultimately what I don't want to have happen is to get our Legislature in the business of passing which flags are okay and which flags aren't, which ones have political muscle, which ones don't, what kind of public sacrifice will get recognized and what kind of public sacrifice won't get recognized and we lead ourselves down that slope with this language. I offer the amendment and I hope that you'll strike it from the bill.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Landis. I'll now recognize Senator Beutler, followed by Senators Chambers and Nelson. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, let me just visit with you a moment about why I support Senator Landis's amendment. In thinking about this matter the other night it seemed to me that traditionally flags are used for a couple of different purposes. In the old days before our countries, when the kings were going around, they were used to stake out territory and flags were used by kings like dogs use fire hydrants. After that point in time with the advent of nationalism I think flags took on an additional symbolic importance. But the purpose of the flag and flying flags is to symbolize something that we can all agree upon and I think clearly we can all agree upon the general ideals and the historical thrust of this democracy. And for that reason we are all 100 percent behind flying the American flag. But within that set of ideals, within that set of goals and purposes there are a lot of directions that we are not in agreement upon and some of these causes have taken on cause flags. This is not the same kind of flag as the American flag. This is a cause flag. Now in this particular instance the cause that we're talking about are POWs and perhaps it's a symbolic flag in that regard. But if the intent is symbolism, then I suggest to you we don't need it because the American flag encompasses that symbolism. Getting back our POWs, treating our POWs well, doing everything that we possibly can do for our POWs is encompassed, I think, within the meaning of being an American. So to the extent that there is no controversy or no cause here that is not totally agreed upon by everybody, then there is no need to be flying an additional flag. But the danger here is that we're starting off