

the reason that's the case is that there is a safety danger. Somebody might get trampled in the fearful rush to the door. In fact, we know that from our own history that that that has happened on more than one occasion. Senator Hefner, briefly, what is the peril that we avoid, like crushed people who are injured on the way to the exit of the theater, when you shout "fire", what peril do we avoid by passing an anti-flag desecration law?

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Hefner, would you respond, please.

SENATOR HEFNER: Senator Landis, our flag is a symbol of our country.

SENATOR LANDIS: What peril do we avoid?

SENATOR HEFNER: The Supreme Court has said that if a person burns the flag and we punish them for that, that we are destroying their freedom of speech.

SENATOR LANDIS: What peril do we stop if we make that illegal?

SENATOR HEFNER: I don't believe I'm following you on that.

SENATOR LANDIS: What peril are we, as a nation, as individuals, going to suffer, if the flag is allowed to be burned, that we will avoid if we make burning the flag illegal? What peril will we stop?

SENATOR HEFNER: I would say respect, respect for our country.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, that's good enough. Respect for the flag, right? That's the peril? That is not good enough, ladies and gentlemen. That is not nearly the quality that we preserve when we say don't shout fire in a crowded theater when somebody is going to die if there is a rush to the door. It's not a good enough reason as to why we have an open burning statute that says, look, you burn leaves, they might burn somebody's house down. That's why that...and by the way, if you burn a flag in the open, your open burning law will be an appropriate criminal penalty to exact. You can catch somebody and punish them for burning a flag in the same manner that if they make any other open burning, they could. If you want to go and get them, you can and they can be illegal. There is no significant peril to us as a nation. Were we crippled in our ability to act during