

Constitution. I sat in on a hearing last year and people that were so opposed to burning the flag couldn't care less if you tore the Constitution apart. They couldn't care less. So what you're trying to do with this amendment, limiting our freedoms, freedoms that really don't hurt, physically hurt or harm anyone, but are an expression of speech or thought, we should not allow that and it's a very, it's very offensive to me to try and restrict those freedoms. If I have people that have been injured by the United States government, take for an example, the people that lived around the Hanford Nuclear Reservation in Washington. The United States government intentionally released radiation into the air to see how it would travel. As a result, many, many people got cancer. I heard one person on the radio, his father, his wife and two children were both, all three dying of cancer. Should that man have the right to burn the American flag if he wants to? You bet. You betcha. We have had other situations similar that if people are offended by the sometimes illegal, sometimes immoral actions of the United States government and it personally affects them, they should be able to take an action like this as a statement of their objection to what the country has done. Kent State would be a good example. We had people peacefully protesting what they thought was an immoral war and they were shot down by National Guard members, government sponsored soldiers, whatever. Should their parents be able to burn the American flag? I think so, if they want to. I'd say that's less of a crime than their children being innocently shot for demonstrating under their constitutional rights. And it goes back...if you want to read a book on labor history, you'll find the United States government doing this type of thing all through history, the Wobblies, international workers of the world, were consistently beaten and jailed for standing up and reading the Constitution in public. Is that right? No, it's not right and then government troops would come in on horseback, sweep through the square, kill the workers. The ones that weren't killed were thrown in jail. Is that correct? Is that moral by our government? No, and there should be available means of protest and I don't see burning the flag as something that is as terrible as some of the crimes and sins that our country has committed. I don't want to come off sounding like I don't think this is a great country, because I think there is few around that could match it. I won't necessarily say none.

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.