

lived through World War II were taught. We were taught by the school, in bringing things for the Red Cross, in bundling up newspapers. My job as a girl was to take the ends off the cans and take the labels off and smash them flat. Too bad we can't do that today for the war effort. It was a sense that you may call patriotic and you may run down that definition too, but I was taught the flag was a symbol of all that was good in our country and I was taught in school, I was taught in the scout program. I wonder if we even have those kinds of programs today. Maybe we should amend, if this gets on the floor, the first resolution and instead of say the power to prohibit the physical desecration, something more positive. I don't know. All I know is that through the years transcending all of the things you may not agree with, the things that you deplore, this flag has been extremely important as a symbol of our country and from the first flag that we all heard about, Betsy Ross, which was known as the Cambridge flag which flew over George Washington's headquarters at Cambridge, Massachusetts, January 1 of 1776. There have been many people who have spoken to this issue far more eloquently than I can. I would like to quote Chief Justice of the Supreme Court Charles Evans Hughes who spoke in 1916. What does the American flag mean? It means more than association and reward. It is the symbol of our national unity, our national endeavor, our national aspiration. It tells you of the struggle for independence of Union preserved, of liberty and Union, one and inseparable, of the sacrifices of brave men and women to whom the ideals and honor of this nation have been dearer than life. It means America first. It means an undivided allegiance. It means America united, strong and efficient, equal to our task. It means that you cannot be saved by the valor and devotion of your ancestors, nor, I should add, the...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR PIRSCH: ...the wrong things, but that to each generation comes its patriotic duty and that upon your willingness to sacrifice and endure, as those before you have sacrificed and endured, rests the national hope. That's what the flag is a symbol of, of national hope.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Pirsch. Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, we saw in Senator Labeledz's remarks that slippery slope that we begin when we start this discussion.