

September 28, 1992 LB 20

Russian. He said he and this other young Russian had grown up, gone to school together, then he chose the path of the cloth and his friend chose to go into politics. So his friend, and this is supposed to be true. His friend had gotten this high position in the Russian government. So the priest, in trying to determine what would be the appropriate thing to wear, decided he'd wear a business suit. So he walked in, and his friend was just sitting there. And when the priest walked in his friend's face lit up with a smile. And the priest felt that everything's going to be all right, he remembers when we were young. So his friend said, my understanding is that you went to the seminary and became a religious man. And the priest nodded that's correct. He said, well, don't you have a particular garb that goes along with your profession? And the priest said, well, yes, I do. And this man said, well, you're wearing a business suit. Why is that? So the priest couldn't find the words to explain that he was trying to wear what was appropriate for this gathering. So the godless man looked at him and smiled again. He said, you dress in this way to accommodate me, I guess you fear me more than you fear Him, and he gestured toward heaven. That's the reality. I always see people who make these religious professions, turning their back on their religion for what I consider trifling reasons. I won't turn away from my principles. I know good and well that if I believed in this God and Jesus that somebody telling me that there's a political crisis, therefore I'm going to turn my back on my religion, the thing that is supposed to take care of this immortal soul that I'm supposed to have. And it's that insignificant and valueless to me, so that in the presence of other human beings I'm going to let all of this go? Then on Sunday morning, when there is all this bawling and whooping and hollering in church, we're going to get misty-eyed, if we're not sleeping while the preacher is preaching what he doesn't believe and we don't believe either, we're going to sit up there and look all misty-eyed like this really has some significance. Pointless ritual. It's more blasphemous...

SENATOR CONWAY: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...and sacrilegious than the things that heathens, such as people like myself are called, would dream of doing. But this particular amendment that the supreme being has said put in place, this I command you, I want you to follow that commandment, I want you to obey the supreme being as I shall do on this one. And we're going to all be in this one together.