

it. That's the only time that denial can occur when we know what the facts are but refuse to accept them. So in general most people can arrive at a fairly close approximation of the truth. But when other factors come into play, then it becomes difficult to act on what we know to be the truth. Somebody once said that character...talent is developed in solitude, but character in the stream of life. When you're out here where there are battles and struggles, what you are and what you will become is going to be forged in that caldron. And whether you be strong or whether you be weak largely rests with you provided you've had the opportunities to develop your ability to think and understand to such a degree that you can grasp what your situation is. Unfortunately, there is not the level of education that is needed in this society. There is not the depth of thought and contemplation which are necessary to cause a society to function at a high level. And I think that would be the case anyplace in this world. You may have some countries, well, Japan is given as an example where they keep kids in schools many, many hours more during a year than the youngsters in America are kept. But it's not just being in a place doing certain things that is important. It's what is derived from the activity that is engaged in and the energy that is expended. So it would be better, even though sometimes people get irritated in here, for us to have knock-down drag-out discussions of serious issues such as this one and go on and on and on because the issue is important enough to justify it, then really some of the trifling, petty things that generate the most anger and irritation and aggravation. Those petty things generate that because they're easily grasped in their totality. There is no challenge to it. And if we grasp it because it is so simple, it seems that everybody ought to grasp that so when they don't then the irritation sets in. But it's harder to get angry at somebody if they genuinely don't understand. I don't get upset with people who don't understand. I get upset with people who do understand and don't act in accord with their understanding. To punish somebody because they don't know is cruel and unjustified. But in this body, this legislative body, we assume and presume that everybody understands what's going on, although we know that that presumption is not correct. Since we all promised when we came down here to do a certain job, people are justified in making the presumption that we're here to do that job and that we equip ourselves to do it even though factually we know that's not the case. But if we don't know what we're doing, we should not get in positions where we have gotten ourselves obligated to do things that as things