

# "Iowa Senators Have Defenders" Newspaper Article, March 7, 1917

## IOWA SENATORS HAVE DEFENDERS

*NOT PROBABLE EITHER HOUSE OF LEGISLATURE WILL PASS RAYBURN RESOLUTION*

*EXPRESSIONS INDICATE APPROVAL OF COURSE*

Leaders in Both Houses Not Inclined to Condemn Cummins and Kenyon For Failure to Support President's Armed Neutrality Policy — Text of Rayburn Resolution

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Special to Times-Republican:

Des Moines, March 7— From sediments expressed by various members of the legislature yesterday in interviews it is doubtful if either house passes the joint resolution introduced yesterday by Representative Rayburn, of Poweshiek condemning United States Senators Cummins and Kenyon for opposing the armed neutrality bill. The resolution is expected to come up today. The majority of members declared that they are opposed to minority rule but that they had faith in the judgement of the two senators from Iowa.

Lieutenant Governor Moore declared in his judgment the two Iowa senators were absolutely right. "The Iowa senators were absolutely right in their stand," he said. "Congress has the constitutional right to make war if war is to be declared. President Wilson wanted this power delegated to him. Regardless of what his bill is called it would give him the power to make war. There is nothing to prevent his assembling his congress immediately if he deems it necessary for this country to declare war."

Senator Arney, of Marshall county, upheld the Iowa senators. He said "I believe Senators Kenyon and Cummins did right. The senate fixed the rule by which they filibustered. The situation is just the same as if that rule had been law. They were within their rights in invoking the rule. They were also right in refusing to give the president the power he demanded. Congress should retain the right to declare war."

Senator Heningbaum, of Scott county believes in standing by the Iowa senators. "I believe in standing by Senators Cummins and Kenyon." he said. "They were on the ground and were acquainted with the facts. I think they have the ability to judge what is the right thing to do in such matters."

Speaker Milton B. Pitt, of the house of representatives, said he is against any attempt to criticize (sic) the Iowa senators. "I am of the opinion that it is too early to pass judgement on the Iowa senators on the proposition." said Speaker Pitt. "They were clearly within their rights in standing out against a proposition they did not believe to be correct."

Mac J. Randall of Linn county declared if he had been in Cummins or Kenyon's place he would have voted for the armed neutrality resolution but he did not favor the Rayburn resolution.

### *The Rayburn Resolution*

The resolution as introduced by Representative Rayburn and as it will come up today follows:

"Whereas, the said Albert B. Cummins and William S. Kenyon by aiding the filibuster defied the will of an overwhelming majority of the United States senate in effect, substituting the minority rule for the majority rule and,

"Whereas, the said Albert. B. Cummins and William S. Kenyon in this action wholly disregarded the formal pledge of the general assembly of the state of Iowa to support any measure the president deemed necessary to uphold the honor and dignity of the United States of America in the present crisis, therefore.

"Be it resolved by the house, the senate concurring:

"Section 1. That we recognize that the action of the senators representing Iowa has held up the state of Iowa as an object for the scorn and contempt of a great number of the patriotic citizens of the United States. "

Sec. 2. That we hereby assert the firm belief that In so acting the senators representing Iowa were not in fact representing the views of any great proportion of the citizens of the state of Iowa.

"Sec. 3. That we solemnly assure the people of the United States that the people of Iowa recognize the prime necessity of the rule of the majority in conduct of the nation's affairs and repudiate the acts of the senators representing Iowa in imposing the rule of the minority upon the United States senate as wholly unauthorized by any considerable sentiment of the people of Iowa."