

18-year-old vote

The 18-year-old vote has a long history of futile attempts by senators and congressmen to secure its legality by constitutional amendment. And more recently, 18 or 19-year-old voting rights have been denied in several state elections, including Nebraska. Now, the Senate is on the verge of by-passing the obstacles which have prohibited youth suffrage and passing the 18-year-old vote in the form of a legislative act.

Yet there is some opposition to the bill in the Senate and more in the House. The reason: the bill is potentially unconstitutional. In light of past failures in Congress and state elections, this argument must be overlooked if America is to grant one of its largest and most vocal minorities a voice in the nation's government. What is more, Sen. Roman Hruska's argument that a court ruling nullifying votes cast by 18, 19 and 20-year-olds might create doubt about the 1972 presidential election is particularly invalid. The voting amendment would go into effect Jan. 1, 1971 thus giving the Supreme Court ample time to rule on any charge of unconstitutionality.

Even ignoring the "if he is old enough to fight, he is old enough to vote" argument, there are numerous reasons to back passage of the 18-year-old vote amendment. No other American generation in its youth has shown as much interest in political affairs as today's youth. No other generation has been as well educated. No other generation has been so willing to resort to mass action and even violence in order to be heard.

As long as young Americans are deprived of the right to vote, they will consider themselves outside the system and owing no allegiance to it. If futility and frustration are the only rewards for their interest in bettering America, they will lose all respect for their nation. Only the right to vote and the potential power to change America which goes with that right, will harness youthful activism and convince the young they have a say and a stake in the socio-political affairs of the nation.

Jim Pedersen

EDIT ORIAL

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Our man Hoppe

by Arthur Hoppe

Look. Look and see. See Dick. See Pat. Dick and Pat live in a house. They live in a white house. Pat is home. Pat is home from a trip.

"Look, Dick. Look and see. I am home. I am home from my trip."

"Yes, Pat, I see. Did you have a nice trip?"

"Yes, Dick. I had a nice trip. I had a very nice trip. I went to five nice colleges. I received many nice flowers. I shook many nice hands. I said many nice things."

"That's nice, Pat. What did you say?"

"I said America is a wonderful country."

"That's nice, Pat."

"I said American young

people are wonderful, too."

"That's nice Pat."

"I said peace in Vietnam is just around the corner."

"That's . . . You what?"

"It was a nice thing to say. It made everybody happy. I know everybody was happy. Everybody laughed."

See Dick. See Dick frown. "Shades of Yo-Yo McNamara, Pat! You should not have said that."

"Oh, Dick. I am sorry. I am sorry I spoiled your surprise." See Pat. See Pat frown. "But peace is just around the corner, isn't it, Dick?"

See Dick. See Dick frown. Dick frowns sincerely. "I am glad, Pat. I am glad you asked that question."

"I am glad you are glad, Dick. What is the answer?"

"Let me be candid about this, Pat. Let me be very candid about this one thing."

"I am glad to let you be candid, Dick. I am always glad when you are candid about one thing."

"I am for peace, Pat. It is just my simple duty. Others may differ, but I think it is just my duty to be for peace."

"I am glad you are just for peace, Dick."

"I am not just for peace, Pat. I am for a just peace."

"I am just glad you are just for a just peace, Dick. Is it just around the corner?"

"Let me say this, Pat. Let me say this about that. A just peace is not just around any corner. A just peace is around a just corner. Let us not say that peace is just around the corner. Let us say that peace is around the just corner. That is my judgment on this. This is also my judgment on that."

"Oh, Dick, will we turn the just corner?"

"We just must, Pat. Or the most terrible thing of all will happen. We just must turn the corner."

"By when, Dick?"

"By 1972, Pat."

"Do you have hope, Dick?"

"Yes, Pat, I hope. I hope I've made myself perfectly clear."

See Pat. See Pat frown. Pat wants to help. Pat wants to help Dick. See Pat smile. Pat has an idea.

"I will help you, Dick. I will help you make one thing perfectly clear. I will say that peace is not just around the corner. Then one thing will be perfectly clear."

See Dick. See Dick pick up the poker. Dick is going to strike a blow. Dick is going to strike a blow for peace. See Pat. See Pat run. Run, Pat, run.

America
went
looking for
a man.
And
got a
president...

SLEAZY RIDER

