

population together. Upon his death things began to fall apart. They were accelerated by the other events in eastern Europe surrounding the breakup of the Soviet Union. Croatia did declare its independence in June of 1990. Bosnia-Herzegovina, which has a strong segment of Muslim, Croats and Serbians declared its sovereignty sometime later. The Serbians have been moving to stop this breakaway. I think you've all seen on television and in magazines references to the types of atrocities that are taking place. The world community has been watching, they've begun to take action. I think all of us that have been following the news realize that they're coming much closer to taking specific action at this point. The history of the region is an interesting one. This has always been an area of great nationalism. It was a hotbed at the beginning of World War I. The six separate countries were forced together, both after World War I and again after World War II. There are ancient animosities in this area. What does this resolution do? Number one, it recognizes the nature of the conflict. The language in it is not an attempt to be and to incite terribly strong emotional responses, but it is strong language, nonetheless. It recognizes that United Nations in so far attempted to take steps and they've not been successful. It urges the United Nations to enforce its actions. It urges humanitarian aid. It urges that the United States become more active in refugee settlement and it does make note of the fact that in Omaha, Nebraska we do have a Croatian Cultural Society and it asks that they be involved in the resettlement and working with the refugees. Why should we take a stand on this? Number one, there are atrocities being committed in the world and I think right thinking individuals every place in the world have an obligation to speak out when that happens. Although this is not a binding resolution, I've been told that the fact that there are state legislatures throughout the United States beginning to take note and speak out through the resolution process is, in fact, making a difference. So I think it is important that we as a body take a stand on this measure and let our voice join those of others who are seeking an end to the conflict in Bosnia, Croatia, Serbia, and the other republics of the former Yugoslavia, so I'd urge you to support this resolution.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Withem. Before I proceed to the next item I would like to introduce some guests of the Legislature. They are guests of Senator Pirsch. We have some fourth graders from Omaha Christian Academy in Omaha and their