

K - type this + send to Rep. Denton with  
note from me saying this is suggested intro  
+ questions for the taping wed. am that Dale  
Lithland suggested I send to you.  
Suggested Questions on Presidential Inability...

For nearly 40 years in our country's history, we have been without a Vice President. And, for 177 years, the question of what to do when a President is unable to perform his duties has been left unanswered. ~~Although~~ These problems have been discussed for years and years. But nothing was ever done. ~~It~~ ~~with some understandable pride~~ Nothing, that is, until a fellow Hoosier came to Washington ~~two~~ a couple of years ago and took the bull by the horns. Senator Birch Bayh proposed a constitutional amendment to solve these problems. Then he steered the proposal through his own Subcommittee on Constitutional Amendments, through the full Senate Judiciary Committee, and finally through the Senate ~~by~~ where it was approved by a vote of 65-0. Now, identical legislation has been introduced in the House--and there is a good chance that the Bayh proposal will become the 25th Amendment to the Constitution in a year.

Senator, would you explain how you would fill the office of Vice President if it were vacant? How would your amendment work in the recent situation where President Johnson succeeded to the office and the vice presidency were ~~the~~ left vacant?

Birch, your proposal also deals with the problem of presidential disability. How would this operate--particularly if a president ~~would not~~ could not, or would not, say that he is unable to perform his duties?

I understand that you have 75 or more co-sponsors in the Senate. Do you expect any serious opposition there, or here in the House?

Some people have suggested that we enact some stop-gap legislation until your proposal actually becomes a part of the Constitution. How do you feel about this idea?

Do you think the states will favor this proposal and ratify it?