

1 members elected while the rest call for a simple majority
2 of those present and voting. They say, and I quote, the
3 requirement of constitutional majority, majority of the
4 members elected, has come to present a convenient and eva-
5 sive way of killing a bill without going on record against
6 it. An absence or non-voting member becomes in effect
7 an opponent of the bill. If enough members decline to
8 vote, the bill is certain to fail. The individual legisla-
9 tor can, if he chooses, argue that he was meeting with
10 constituents, that he did not hear the bell, or that he
11 was otherwise detained. Legislative devices for evasion,
12 for escaping pressures and avoiding records are numerous.
13 Most of them are maintained by plausible, if not altogether
14 convincing reasons. That is the end of the quotation.

15 I think if we want legislators, and I apologize
16 for quoting from a professor of government, but I think if
17 we want our legislators to be responsible to the electorate,
18 if we want them to be responsible to the House in which
19 they serve, I think then we should deprive them of the
20 opportunity simply to be absent, and thereby avoid a vote.

21 In reference to the comments of the distinguished