

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HARRISBURG, Nov. 15 -- State Rep. Kenneth J. Cole, D-Adams, in a floor speech today to fellow House members, said the right to vote was won at great cost to our forefathers and stands as our most precious right today.

Cole took time off from watching the recount of his deadlocked race in the 91st district to share his thoughts on America's heritage during the House' last day of scheduled business for the 1977-78 session.

Cole's election Nov. 7 ended in a dead heat with his opponent at 8,551 votes each. The ballot boxes were impounded and sealed prior to a recount which began Tuesday. The outcome of the Adams County election will determine which party controls the House in the next session. Currently, Democrats and Republicans are tied at 101 seats apiece.

The text of Cole's floor speech is attached.

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11/15/78

jf

KENNETH J. COLE, MEMBER  
ROUTE 1  
GETTYSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17325



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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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HARRISBURG

Floor Speech by Rep. Ken Cole  
Last Day of 1977-78 Session

There was a time, in this country, when even a whole day of life was not taken for granted, much less water, shelter and a safe place to live. Now, by reason of our unusually rich heritage, we take for granted--too much. We expect, we insist, and yes, even sometimes demand.

Without thinking, we accept not only the great needs of food, shelter and clothing, but a whole number of little things that make up our way of life, a pattern of safety. We take for granted the safety of our locked front door, a roof over our home, heat and lights. We expect our children, bursting with life, to sweep us off our feet with the strength of their warm welcome. As we do breathing, we take for granted clean water and clean air.

We expect young husbands to make a successful future for themselves and their families. We expect our elderly citizens to retire from long years of hard work. We expect all our sons and daughters to have a good education. We hope that decent men and women will get voted into public office. We take for granted that we are free men and we shall not be imprisoned or have our "everything" taken away from us, whatever that may be.

What we forget every day, every moment, is our great American history. It was not just to give us these luxuries and necessities that those men stayed on during that cruel winter at Valley Forge

for 22 cents a day; that Lincoln did the fine, unpopular thing, without fear; that more than 56,000 men died in prison camps between 1861 and 1864 during the Civil War; that later, half a million Americans lay in their own blood on foreign soil. It was not to give us apathy and complacency that women faced Indian attacks and were partners in the great pioneering movement to the West.

It is good to remember what our simple right to vote cost other human beings. Perhaps they had no thought of us. However, they were concerned with making their America great. What they made then is what we have today. To take this rich jewel in the crown of our heritage unthinkingly for granted is the first step toward losing this precious right.

The outcome of Ken Cole's election<sup>3</sup> to this prestigious House of Representatives is not important. But what is important is the lesson that every person in Pennsylvania and throughout this nation should have learned on Election Day 1978; and that is--Yes, your one vote does count!