

"To say that he who is old enough to fight is old enough to vote is to draw an utterly fallacious parallel. No such parallel exists. The ability to choose, to separate promise from performance, to evaluate on the basis of fact, are the prerequisites to good voting. . . ."<sup>23</sup>

". . . The qualities which, according to the generals, make young men under 21 desirable as soldiers—impressionability, pliability, automatic response to stimuli—are the very reasons that should make them undesirable as voters. . . ."<sup>24</sup>

". . . Women don't do as much fighting as men—at least in a military way—yet American women have equal voting rights with American men. Nobody argues that, because the women don't go to the wars as plentifully as the men, the women should not be allowed to vote.

"Nor have we ever heard it argued that if you're too old to fight you're too old to vote. . . ."<sup>25</sup>

". . . That they [the eighteen-year-olds] can fight is a credit to their physical maturity and their realization of the duties and responsibilities

D. *Lowering the voting age would confer political rights and responsibilities upon minors—persons not generally considered to be sufficiently mature to be held fully responsible legally for their actions.*

"In most cases a person is not responsible for his contracts until he is twenty-one. A parent is permitted to take a tax deduction for his offspring

of citizenship to protect, as their older brothers, fathers, and ancestors have protected, their country. . . . Intellectual maturity is a more important basis for democratic citizenship than physical maturity is. The catalytic action of physical maturity and duty and responsibility to defend the country physically does not bring about that intellectual maturity, nor the feeling of responsibility not to commit crimes, nor the political maturity to vote."<sup>26</sup>

"The argument for lowering the voting age to 18 is 90 percent emotionalism and political opportunism. I have found that most of the adults with whom I have discussed this question have been for it at first, but have changed their minds after calm deliberation. Far better than lowering the voting age in order to demonstrate to youth how greatly we appreciate their valiant and indispensable war-time services, would be to provide throughout this country true equality for all our nation's youth. . . . Then our youth could know that when they reached the voting age they had been given an education which qualified them to take their proper place in the world as citizens and individuals."<sup>27</sup>

until they reach twenty-one if he is supporting them. The age at which one has the right to marry without parental consent, although varying in

<sup>23</sup> Statement of Representative Emanuel Celler, *supra* Note 1 at 15.

<sup>24</sup> Washington Post, Jan. 11, 1954, at 10, col. 2 (editorial).

<sup>25</sup> Washington Times-Herald, Aug. 13, 1943, at 6, col. 1 (editorial).

<sup>26</sup> 100 CONG. REC. App. 588 (1954) Jan. 27, 1954. Statement from a constituent, W. C. B. Lambert, read by Senator J. William Fulbright.

<sup>27</sup> Dr. Alonzo F. Myers, Professor of Education, New York Univ., *supra* Note 1, at 15.