

SMITH:

Do you think that any votes or minds are ever changed on the floor of either House by speech?

DIRKSEN:

Oh, yes. Not often, but sometimes and it depends on the nature of subject matter and obviously on the type of a speech you make. I think it has happened twice to me. Once on civil rights because I dug out that quote from Victor Hugo allegedly written the night he died in his diary when he said, "An idea, whose time has come, is stronger than all the armies on earth."

SMITH:

What was the other time?

DIRKSEN:

The other time was when I was on a sugar bill and it was late at night. I prepared for it and we had a full Chamber. I laid into it and several members came down and said, you will change some votes. Now you hear it from your members. You are not particularly conscious of it yourself until they tell you.

(MORE)