

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

January 22, 2001 LR 1

favor of. It would mean that in the year 2001 I am voting in favor of something that I think was simpleminded when it was put in the constitution and think it is simpleminded today. Yesterday's ignorance and intolerance becomes today's orthodoxy, and I will not support it. But if the rest of you want to do it, you have the votes to do so. And when the public comes to you to explain it, you ought to be able to explain precisely what is being done with the language that the Legislature has adopted. The reason I said what Senator Stuhr is trying to do mitigates the damage, it's taking some of the bad stuff out of the constitution that is there.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Time. Thank you, Senator Chambers. Seeing no further lights, Senator Chambers, you're recognized to close.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, when I say I support what she's doing, I don't mean I'll support it with my vote. I had used the term "mitigate". It lessens the damage by taking some of the bad language out of the constitution. But, as I stated in giving the reason why I will not vote for this, it leaves in that which I find more abhorrent than what is being taken out. I say let there be freedom for everybody. I'm like Patrick Henry--freedom for everybody or freedom for nobody; liberty or death. But then he didn't say freedom for everybody or freedom for nobody, because he was a slaveholder and he certainly did not mean freedom for his slaves. But giving Pat his due, he did say that slavery is a terrible thing, but he's carried on...along by the practices of the society; he's become so accustomed to having them that he cannot...he doesn't enjoy the notion of the inconvenience of living without them. The man who said give me liberty or give me death was a slaveholder. It's why somebody in my position does not view things the same way others on this floor will view them. People you view as a hero, I view as villains. One person's religion is another person's superstition or devil worship. It always has been thus; always will be thus. But I'm going to lift my voice and comment on these things because these things need to be discussed and none of them should be given a free ride, given a pass. And because others are timid, I shall not follow that path. I'm curious now to see how my colleagues are going to vote on this proposal when I doubt that there is