

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

January 14, 2002

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, I keep forgetting that I have this shirt on, so I'm going to get out of the way what it pertains to. In 1992, when I wore a younger man's clothes which still fit me ten years later, I had gotten a threat against my life from the Norfolk area. I was talking to a reporter and just showed it to him as an example of what routinely is done with reference to me in this Legislature--the racial slurs, the threats, all of it that I have been contending with ever since I've been here. Then white people have the nerve to say I play the race card. The reporter talked to the State Patrol. Somebody from the Patrol had asked me could they get a copy of what it was, and I showed the person, and he asked could he get the actual stuff that was sent and I turned it over to him. I didn't hear anything. The then Director of the State Patrol called me. He said, I think I ought to let you know, Senator, that the FBI did lift a thumbprint from the document but they did not want you to know about it because you might undertake to do something about it, so they're not going to tell you. Isn't that something? They thought the threat was credible enough to conduct an investigation, but they're not going to tell me the outcome because I might do something about it, when obviously they intended to do nothing. I wore the shirt today because my colleagues go into denial. They say something is not true which everybody in the public knows is true. What people at these little gatherings at Rotary Clubs, chambers of commerce and other places throughout the state will dictate to you all, you've got to get that Chambers, then people have the audacity to stand on this floor and say, this doesn't have anything to do with Senator Chambers; no, it doesn't have anything to do with him at all. And the public laughs and so do I. So I wore this shirt with a target as a hint to my colleagues, who are not very perceptive, I am the target. Why did I fashion this shirt? Because I do not fold in the way that my cowardly colleagues fold. My colleagues will fold when an organization threatens to amend the constitution. But when my life was threatened you know what I did? I made this shirt. I notified the media in Norfolk that I was coming out there to visit; that I intended to give an open-air presentation in a park, I was going to a restaurant, then I was going to give an interview on the radio.