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FLOOR DEBATE

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ponds in the yard, with water, goldfish, and multicolored rainbow sand at the bottom of that pond. So sometimes words can evoke recollections. But despite all that, this should not be in the state constitution, standing alone. But if you would seriously consider putting to the voters what Senator Schrock is offering, put this there with it. There's a song that Kenny Rogers sang, and it started: On a warm summer evening, on a train bound for nowhere, I met up with a gambler. We were both too tired to sleep. And he went on to explain the kind of conversation that they had. And by the time the song ended, the gambler, in his sleep, had broken even, which meant he died. But prior to doing that, he had given this person he was talking to some advice that he could keep. And that was, advice which Senator Schrock should heed this morning: You got to know when to hold 'em, know when to fold 'em, know when to walk away, and know when to run. Now, Senator Smith, on his motorcycle helmet bill, is going to know when to run. He doesn't want to, but he will know. When that time comes, he will know it. This proposal of Senator Schrock has led me to discuss with you all, or whoever would listen, whether on the floor or by way of Internet or public television, some things that I think are of consequence. Along the way, I had read provisions from the U.S. Constitution, and despite the fact that at the time it was written those who were participating in the writing, known as the so-called founding fathers, had among their number several who held slaves. While lauding the principles of freedom, they enslaved people of my complexion. Although they couldn't bring themselves to be honest enough to use the word "slavery," they made very clear references to that benighted institution and the people who were damned eternally to be oppressed by it. Compromises were made as the U.S. Constitution was being written at Philadelphia in 1787. In Article I, the first article of this constitution, is one of the worst compromises, one of the greatest insults enshrined in the U.S. Constitution. It's known among black people as the three-fifths of a person clause. And it says, coming directly from Article I of the U.S. Constitution: "Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to their respective Numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole Number of free Persons," meaning white people, "including those bound to