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the concept and mention of a Chaplain.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, if it were not for the fact that the talk of religion is enshrined in the First Amendment where we also talk about freedom of assembly, freedom of expression, freedom of the press, the right to petition your government for redress of grievances, it prohibits the establishment of a religion, if it weren't for those weighty considerations whether or not there is a Chaplain in this Legislature might not make any difference whatsoever. As was pointed out by Judge Urbom, his prayers have no significance. They have no impact on anybody. The Senators' conduct show that the prayers mean nothing. We would just as soon read from Shakespeare or Mickey Spilane because they have no religious significance whatsoever. They are secular. The preacher said his intent is a secular one. It is to make the Senators be quiet because they can't be controlled any other way. So in the process of trying to win their point they stated how unruly and disorganized the Senators are. So by having somebody before them waving a supernatural banner they can make them be quiet. Now originally I thought that these prayers had some particular religious significance to the various members of the Legislature, and although they mean nothing to me I was willing to go along and as a show of courtesy and respect for what you claim to believe, not be in the Chamber sitting down or continuing to do what I do while the incantations go forth. But since it has been established from the preacher's own mouth that the prayers serve a secular purpose, that means it has no more validity as a religious exercise than as I mentioned a reading from Shakespeare or Mickey Spilane. I am not going to stand up or leave the room for Shakespeare or any of those people. Right in through here I am taking my son to school so that I arrive late and can't be in here when the prayers go forth to watch what impact they might have on my colleagues, since such a great effort is being put forth to maintain them. But it seems to me that when people mention what the Founding Fathers of this country have done and like to talk about Benjamin Franklin trying to open the Constitutional Convention with a statement that there should be prayer, they fail to mention the fact that his motion to open with prayer was defeated, but who reads history and who cares about it? They don't seem to care that James Madison and Thomas Jefferson were in favor of a total wall of separation between church and state, that the states should not intermeddle with religion