

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, see how far afield this discussion brings us, but freedom of speech, inquiry are things that are appropriate for the legislative floor discussion. Senator Labeledz, what I feel about burning the crucifix is that a heathen would burn a crucifix, but those who honor the crucifix burned heathens at the stake. They burned Christians at the stake because of a difference of opinion so I'd much rather see a crucifix burned than a human being. I don't burn crucifixes, I don't burn Bibles, I don't burn flags, that's not my way, but other people choose to do that and I think they ought to have a right to do it. They should have a right to do it. And when people are so fearful of a challenge to something they think is great, it tells more about that nagging suspicion in their own mind as to the greatness of what they say they believe in than it does about the person who supposedly desecrates that thing they believe. Senator Crosby talked about this country being 215 years old. Senator Crosby, when they were writing the Constitution, 12 of the 13 colonies were slaveholding colonies. People like me were owned as property like cows, pigs and chickens. The majority of the signers of the Constitution owned slaves, produced babies, illegitimate babies on those slaves. Thomas Jefferson who said, when he was writing the Declaration of Independence, we hold these truths to be self-evident, all men are created equal, endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights among those the right to life, liberty. He must have been saying that we, as black people, are not men or that we are an inferior type who can be enslaved. George Washington, the first president that Senator Hefner extolled was a slaveholder. Patrick Henry who said, I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty or give me death, was a slaveholder. Andrew Jackson, supposedly the president for the common people, was a slaveholder. That little short guy, Madison, who wrote notes during the Constitutional Convention, was a slaveholder. And they all did it under the American flag. Talking about the Constitution, the problem is that I read it for purposes of giving slaveholders more representation in Congress so they can enact laws to put us in a tighter type of slavery, each one of us counted as three-fifths of a human being to give the ones who enslaved us more power in Congress. They have a provision in the Constitution that said if one of us managed by hook or crook or ingenuity to escape slavery and make it to a state where slavery was outlawed, that state had an obligation to return us to slavery. That's in the Constitution. Another provision not