

September 29, 1992 LB 20

SENATOR MOORE: What I understood it to be and what it is are two different things, for one. But either way the answer would have been no.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay. So whether you understood or not, the answer is no. That's the good thing about having a hard heart, you always know whatever might help people is no. And the disadvantage of having a soft, compassionate heart, because whatever's going to help people you say yes. I'm going to say like Abraham Lincoln, no I'm not going to say like Abraham Lincoln, but I'd be quoting him, but I think I won't at this point, because based on the kind of conversation and discussion we're having, I don't think it would be understood. But I will tell you the situation that led him to say that. All these people, once he got into office, came to him seeking jobs and offices and other handouts, and he said yes to everybody that he could, everybody. Everybody who came got a yes out of him. And he said, it's a good thing that, with my inability to say no, that I was created a man instead of a...and I won't finish it. You all are smart enough to put in what he said. One other point he said, he wished that he had scarlet fever, then he'd be able to give something to everybody who came asking him for something. Lincoln had a sense of humor, he did. He was a very, very intelligent man, very thoughtful, deeply contemplative, the only problem I have with him was that he was a white supremacist and indicated that was his attitude. But you can't take away from the man the intelligence that he had and the ability to push the point that he believed in with argument. And sometimes he'd use a witticism or a joke that would better answer somebody's argument than all of the assertions in the world. There was one time he was on a train stumping for votes. And even though he said that he didn't believe white people and black people were equal, that since it was going to be the position of the superior and the inferior, he wanted his position to be inferior, he didn't think black people should vote, he didn't think we should hold office, didn't think we should serve on juries or do any of those things, he was considered to be one of those people who was too favorable toward black people, that's the attitude white people had. So he came up into this group on the train, when the train stopped, this white woman jumped out of the audience and came up there and presented him with what they call a piccaninny doll, it's a caricature of a black person. And she thought it would humiliate Lincoln. And all Lincoln said was, madam, is that