

They began to call themselves patriots and even though they would say, well, maybe it shouldn't be done, they began to justify it. They are now explaining why it was done, why you must understand those who did it because their own kind did the wicked deed, apparently. Those of us who talk about the law, who talk about constitutional rights and their protection, even at this time when they've taken a young white man into custody and are looking for other white men, as the ones who did this terrible thing that they had first tried to blame on nonwhite people from other countries, we have to remind people that until there has been a trial and sufficient evidence to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt, in the eyes of the law nobody has been found guilty. There are people who have been tied to it by evidence, so we are told. There are some people who have had charges brought against them, but until the charges are proved nobody stands convicted before the law. The time that we should emphasize those points is when somebody whom everybody hates is the one charged and standing trial.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: If we don't stand up for the rights of those people that we hate the most, then we are saying constitutional and legal rights mean nothing unless we're talking about people we like and those people don't need the protection because they get every consideration anyway. Now is not the time to say, build the gallows on the spot, snatch him out of jail and hang him. Fools say that. Angry citizens say it, but public officials have a responsibility not to contribute to that, so in this discussion of constitutional rights there is such a thing as responsibility also that we, as public officials, have and, in my opinion, have not been shouldering.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Preister would like to announce that there are 60 fourth graders here from Jefferson Elementary School in Omaha, Nebraska and their teachers. They are all crowded into the east balcony. Will you all stand and be recognized, please. Welcome to the Legislature. Senator Chambers, there are no further lights. You have spoken three times. Are you ready to close?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Ready or not, I will close. Members of the Legislature, Madam President, during the French Revolution people were using the terms...well, I won't use theirs, what we like to talk about in America is freedom, justice and equality.