

going to stand up and substitute the term "white" for it. If any of you say it is called...it is the pot calling the skillet black, or whatever that term is that you mean...when you mean one person is degrading another, I want you to say it is the rice calling the vanilla white. And I am going to put it to you, and if you think I am overly sensitive, why should you feel discomfort at anything that I am saying? If the term "black", as you all use it, is a neutral term, why cannot "white" be neutral also. Since the standard and measure for everything where you have a majority group is what that majority sets out, why are not they the standard for all these other things too? So that's what I intend to do. Now I am going to show you how I fall into the same pattern and resort to the same stereotypical symbols, but I do it for a reason. I am wearing a black band, and black is a sign of mourning. The black band that I am wearing is to declare my solidarity as a black man with another black man, Sonny Foster, and I want everybody to know it. He is my friend. He was my friend before he was attacked by white people. He was my friend before they attacked his 69-year-old mother. He remains my friend, and I will not turn my back on nor desert one who is my friend, and I just want you all to know that. And having said my piece, I am going to allow this dispute between white interests to be carried on by my white colleagues, and in the interest of black kindness, I am going to withdraw my motion to bracket.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Would recognize guests in the north balcony. Senator Schmitt has 28 third graders from Saint Paul, along with their teacher. If you would also recognize and Senator Schimek some time ago had asked me to make an announcement regarding a signing ceremony taking place, a celebration of the signing ceremony on LB 68 taking place in the Rotunda. Members, as they have an opportunity inside, are certainly invited to join the folks out in the Rotunda. Senator Wehrbein on the Hall amendment.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Is this the bracket or...yet or...

SPEAKER WITHEM: The bracket motion has been withdrawn. We are now back to the matter at hand which is the Hall amendment.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Okay, I oppose the amendment by Senator Hall, but first of all, I would like to ask a question of Senator Hall if I may.