

January 9, 1996

by Fats Domino, and it started, yes, it's me and I'm in love again. Well, yes, it's me and I'm discussing again, and I will continue to do so. I have the opportunity to talk to youngsters who visit the Capitol, in classrooms. I have, although I've missed it the last two weeks because of other time constraints, a cable program in Omaha, every Thursday night, from nine o'clock to 10:30 p.m. And there are youngsters who watch that program, and many of them approach me, they call me, and they are reaching the point of seeing that language is very important, that obscenities, profanity, and that racial word which all black people hate, that we refer to as the "N" word, accomplish nothing of value. That those who are able to use words effectively control a situation, that young people resort to the profanity when they run out of ordinary words. If somebody is more proficient in using profanity, which constitute words still, then you reach the next step, to preserve your self-respect, your machismo, or whatever it is that a person would feel is being threatened when somebody gets the "ups" on him and her, the next step is that of physical violence. And I let these young people know that you might pop somebody in the mouth, but the mouth will heal. But what happens to you is going to be an ongoing punishment which will inconvenience you greatly, and the person whose mouth is now healed, even though he did not strike a blow, ultimately was the winner because he's out, free to do what he wants to and you're not. You let somebody make a fool out of you because you didn't know what words to use to protect yourself with. And words can protect. I use words to keep a lot of you all off me down here. And it troubles me that you, whose language it is, have so little respect for it. Whenever things are committed to writing, especially by a vote of the legislators, those things that we commit to writing ought to have a certain accuracy, honesty, dependability and reliability about them. What we say on the floor ought to be reflected in the words that we present. There are times when, during long discussions of numerous amendments, and it happened once or twice this session already, I would have a proposal that people would like, but that would not be the one before us. And although I knew they would support the one they thought was before us, I couldn't let them think that was what we were going to vote on, because I knew they probably didn't support the one we were voting on. So I would tell you all again what it is that's before us. I don't want to do these things that are being done by subterfuge. I want the words that we put into our rules to have meaning, I want them to say what we