

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I was downstairs gathering up material for our referencing at noon, but I'm back. This is what the amendment would say and a copy is on your desks. But before I read it I'll explain what it relates to. We are in the process of taking action of one kind or another aimed at actually modifying the constitution. Last session a bill was passed to create a Constitutional Revision Commission. People were to be selected by the Legislature, the Governor, and the courts. I would like to ask Senator Kristensen, well I'll ask the Speaker. Are there nine or twelve people on that commission, if you know?

SPEAKER WITHEM: I believe there are twelve.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Twelve people, so each agency selected four people. Not a woman was selected, not a nonwhite person, which means that there are twelve white males selected. Senator Vrtiska is not here to hear my explanation, but I'm going to give it anyway and it'll be for the record. The amendment that I drafted says the following: "Amend Committee Amendments by adding a new section: The following Senators shall be prohibited from participating in any floor proceedings relative to LR" it should say CAs, meaning resolutions to amend the constitution. And by coincidence, the number is twelve, Bohlke, Brown, Chambers, Crosby, Hillman, Hudkins, McKenzie, Pirsch, Robak, Schimek, Stuhr, Witek. On that list you have every female senator and the one nonwhite senator. If no female or nonwhite person was deemed capable of even reviewing recommendations for changing the constitution, if none are capable of doing that certainly it is beyond the capability of all the females and the one nonwhite person to actually participate in activity designed to change the constitution. I think what we saw in that instance was arrogance, sexism, racism, and all the other negative "isms" that are inherent in a society dominated by white males who have had their way ever since the beginning of this country. I pointed out the profile of George Washington caused by that shadow, which is seen on the front wall of the Chamber. He was a slave holder. Not only did he hold slaves, he produced children on these slaves, as did Thomas Jefferson, Patrick Henry, and other slave holders. Women and nonwhite people have been disrespected by government and government officials since the beginning of this country. In 1995 and 1996, that attitude was exemplified by the exclusion from this commission of everybody who is not a white male. These are what