

you could call a homogeneous group. How are they going to understand, when they have no concern about, the rights, interests, and privileges of females and nonwhite people? They're going to look at the things that mean something to them. And with all of their deliberating, all of their sitting, it did not occur to one of the appointing agencies to include those, or representatives of those groups whose rights are more likely to be trampled upon than the rights of white males. So my amendment is saying that while resolutions to amend the constitution are being considered, the female senators and myself, as the only black person on this floor, will be prohibited from participating in those proceedings. We've been excluded from the commission created by the Legislature, which uses public money to pay these people's travel and other expenses. So why should we be allowed to participate in actually amending or proposing amendments to the constitution in a very formalized setting? That commission cannot put anything on the ballot by a vote of its members, the Legislature can. On the other hand, if we are capable, if for no other reason than the fact that we were elected to this body, of participating in offering amendments to the public, then certainly on that commission some of us should have been found. A bill was offered to the Legislature to tack some of us on. We're always tack-ons, we're afterthoughts, we're the leavings. You just reach out here and say, well, in a token way we'll just pluck a few of them up and put them on here and everything's going to be alright. When the house is being constructed, we want to be included. When the organization is being put together, we want to be a part of it. We don't want there to be the necessity of always launching a battle and a fight to remind people of those things they ought to think about in the first instance unless they believe that the constitution is not designed to embrace everybody in this society, they would make it exclusive rather than inclusive. What man on that commission could talk about the deep concerns of black people, Latino people, or women, even if they're white? From my understanding, as I read magazines and newspapers and listen to the calls that I get, the biggest complaint that white women have is against white men not doing the right thing by them. Yet, maybe that's why the women were excluded, because they do have rights that need to be addressed but they are not to be addressed. So for those, who, like Senator Vrtiska, did not understand or could not fathom what my amendment was aimed to achieve or to spotlight, it ought to be clear now. And I'm going to get a vote on it. And I'm going to