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view what happened to our female colleagues. Ordinarily, because everybody in this Legislature, except me, is white, I would just look at it at white...as white folks' mess, like I look at that Clinton-Lewinsky matter, and brush it aside. But it goes deeper than that in this instance because I happen to be a part of the organization that behaved in this manner, and for me to let it go by without commenting would be an abdication of my responsibility. The only reason such conduct is not directed against black people is because I am the only black person and I will not put myself in a position to be treated in that fashion, although in years past it happened, and it happened to me with a vengeance. When you look at the piddling crumbs thrown to our colleagues, Vice Chair of some inconsequential committee, and we know those committees are inconsequential, we know it, they were designed to be. The work they do is of very small consequence. And to "tokenly" place them in those roles, perhaps to say, well, if we go numerically, we got three or four Vice Chairs. First of all, a Vice Chairpersonship is nothing. It's something to put on stationary so that when you send out letters, those who receive the letter, without understanding the inconsequential status of a Vice Chair Chairpersonship, will be impressed. I'm going to watch very carefully how the Legislature comports itself. Why don't I just sit back and allow my female colleagues to speak for themselves? Because each has a voice, each has a mind, and perhaps they don't even agree with what I'm saying. Well, I conduct my business according to my principles and what I think is right. There have been instances in labor disputes where union...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...representatives and those who might want to organize people into a union would come into a situation and explain to people how they're being exploited and deprived of their rights, because those people are not aware of what had been done to them, and because somebody who is being exploited may not be aware of it is no justification for those who are aware of the exploitation being silent about it. There should be a sensitizing process in a society, there should be a civilizing process. And the Legislature, as one of the coequal of three branches, deals with the public life of this state and should help set an example for the rest of the populace. If