

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

January 31, 2000 LB 175

exchange was that this man told her that he was from Ireland and they had had a famine there and maybe...and starvation, maybe they'd heard...maybe she'd heard of it. So Violet said, the famine? And this man said, no, the starvation. When you have a country full of food that is being exported, you do not have a famine, you have starvation. As "Baron" Tyson and anybody else familiar with that situation knows there was enough food being produced in Ireland to avoid famine conditions, but it was being exported, not by the ones who did the work to produce it. They were trying to eke out that little living on a little patch of land, live off a minimal wage. And those on that little patch of land were also having exorbitant rents extracted from them, even though they were impoverished. So, around 1844 or '45, some tubers were coming from America to Ireland, actually to Europe, and the blight caused by those diseased potatoes first showed up in Holland and the southern counties of England, months before it struck in Ireland. But when it struck in Ireland...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...it struck with a vengeance, and the blight caused successive failures. That is one of the most tortured, blood-stained island in the world. The majority of their plight was created by one of the smallest, most rapacious, vicious little island nations in the world, which was England, one which stole from everybody all over the world.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Chambers, you're recognized to continue.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: When you look at problems that continue to exist everywhere in this world, England, the British had a heavy hand in all of it. The British single-handedly, just about single-handedly created racism, it was to their advantage. They were so infected by racism and the notion of white supremacy or superiority, the notion of the white man's burden that when scientists were making discoveries in Africa of early remains associated with human beings, these findings were suppressed, they were twisted, they were lied about by white men who called themselves scientists and were respected and revered as scientists. In relatively recent times those lies have been