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FLOOR DEBATE

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constitutional amendment LR 4. Open for discussion. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, since this amendment deals directly with the constitution, I want to talk about that some more. The U.S. Constitution is something that every black person ought to hate, because there are several places in that constitution that not only acknowledge slavery, but there's a provision that prohibited the constitution from being amended to prohibit the slave trade. That's in the Constitution of the United States and many people don't know that because they're not taught that in school. They're taught that this is a document to protect freedom, and that freedom-loving people put it together. But a goodly number of the so-called founders of the constitution were slaveholders. At some point, every one of the 13 colonies, including Massachusetts, was a slaveholding entity. So when I read that constitution, I come away from it with a different feeling than you all do. Some people, because of a defect in their education and a lack of knowledge on the part of their instructors, do not realize that there is a difference between the Constitution of the United States and the Declaration of Independence. The Declaration of Independence is not law. It is not a part of the law of this country. It does not bestow any rights; it does not protect any. It's a statement of a position. And when it starts out, we hold these truths self-evident, the "we" comprised white men, many of whom were slaveholders; "that all men are created equal," they didn't mean that. You know what the Declaration of Independence was designed to do? Not elevate people who were held in a lower status in this country to the elitists in this country. The aim was to say that these elite white men in America are equal to the white men in Britain. That's what they were talking about in the Declaration of Independence. They didn't mean equality for people within this country. They could not have meant it, because they were slaveholders. So, since the U.S. Constitution recognized and protected slavery, why do I see a need to defend even the U.S. Constitution? Well, the U.S. Constitution can be analogized to the Bible--an Old Testament in the Bible, a New Testament. The New Testament, supposedly, was to bring enlightenment, more grace, a better way of doing things. When