

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

January 13, 2004 LR 4

the reconstruction amendments were added there was a "New Testament" to the U.S. Constitution. When slavery was abolished by the constitution, not by the Emancipation Proclamation, there was a different constitutional, legal and political status, at least in principle, set afoot that affected the formerly enslaved Africans. When the constitution took that direction, it behooved people such as myself, my ancestors, to uphold that document, to fight as hard as we possibly could...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...to make a reality of the promises contained in that document. We, whose slavery, whose enslavement had been guaranteed by that document, were now dealing with a new version of it that we could uphold and it was in our interest to see brought into action. At the state level, nothing could be put in this constitution that violated the U.S. Constitution or federal law, including the prohibition against slavery and involuntary servitude.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Are you done, Senator Chambers?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Was that my time up?

SENATOR CUDABACK: You have 20 seconds if you care to use them.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Oh. And that partly explains my attitude toward the constitution. I won't use the word "devotion"; I don't want to overdo it. But I see a great need to protect, shield, and defend it from frivolous amendments. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Friend on the Chambers amendment, FA1169.

SENATOR FRIEND: Thank you, Mr. President. I wanted to point out, Senator Chambers eloquently tried to...let's just say that I think it's pretty clear, you know, based on the voting that has been done already, that I stand in opposition to Senator Chambers' amendment and stand in favor of LR 4CA. But I did want to correct the record. Senator Chambers had brought up