

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

January 16, 2004 LB 279

amendment?

SENATOR BAKER: No, it was not. It was not the first time.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I will review the transcript. Thank you, Senator Baker. Members of the Legislature, part of that apology that I made I'm going to take back. I had gotten the impression from Senator Baker that his staff and his committee had nothing to do with the amendment. People can be embarrassed, but they ought to take their lumps, as I'll take mine when I feel that I have stepped across the line. You know why I bring these issues up? I want to make people more circumspect. There is such a thing as accountability. I often mention that word. That's why I have to be accountable, and I will make myself accountable. But I'm going to hold everybody else accountable, too, when they put themselves in a position voluntarily and solicit the support of others to back them there. Now I'm away from Senator Baker. I'm going to look at all these committee Chairs and the bills that come out of their committees. One thing we know is true: A person does not have to have any particular expertise to be on any committee here, nor any particular expertise to have a position of leadership. You don't have to know anything about anything; just get enough people to vote for you. And if a person doesn't know anything, it will shake out in the wash and it will be demonstrated. I just wish that black people would get the same slack that I see these white people around here getting, where we don't even have to know anything about a subject and we get put at the top slot. We're always told, you're not qualified. I look around here at what comes out of these committees. I look at the legislation that's drafted. I listen to the debates.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And every now and then I've got to vent, because there are still people passing out hate literature in Omaha downgrading people such as me. And there are people on this floor who think that hate crimes don't happen because he doesn't understand it, or maybe he's in agreement with those who do such things. We've got to get more rough and tumble around here than we have been in terms of our discussion of issues, and