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FLOOR DEBATE

April 21, 2005      LR 8

slavery but to protect the slave trade, to protect that particular activity from being touched by any amendment to the constitution before 1805, they had some questions. So the lords of the lash in the south, the lords of the loom in the north, both of which exploited the labor of those who could not help themselves, did manage to come together and put a constitution out there that was full of contradictions, compromises, immoral, unethical positions because they thought having a unified, more or less, national government under the direction of a written constitution was worth the effort. So it was submitted for ratification and in June of 1788 nine states ratified and the congressional election, the first one, took place later that year. Congress said that in 1789, March 4, the government would commence. So the United States government opened shop March 4, 1789. The promise had been...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...made to a number of states that a Bill of Rights would be immediately put together by Congress and proposed to the states so, true to their promise, in September of 1789, 12 proposals constituting a Bill of Rights was submitted. Ten of them were ratified and on December 15, 1791, they were certified by Congress and the Bill of Rights became a part of the constitution. So, between 1787, when the convention got together, to 1791, when the Bill of Rights had been certified, America went from the Articles of Confederation to a constitution which people are familiar with today. It had seven original Articles. It had ten amendments, known as the Bill of Rights.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. I would ask for a call of the house.

SENATOR CUDABACK: You've heard the closing on FA37. Been a request for a call of the house. All in favor of the house going under call vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Record please, Mr. Clerk.