

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

April 21, 2005 LR 8

when he got on these plantations, including Thomas Jefferson's and the others, they saw all these little children running around of every shade, hue and complexion, and the only thing they had in common was that they looked alike. They had a common father. So what do these white women who were the wives of these men, who were making babies with black women down in the slave huts because they were vulnerable, and children being raped by the fathers of this country, how did the white women feel? I have no way of knowing, but I can speculate. The man said it was like bread, brown bread and white bread. The only difference between them is in their complexion. The slices look the same. They're all cut from the same loaf, based on their appearance, except for color. But to continue: America, American society could not absorb so numerous and culturally alien a people without changing its own ways for the worse. The next reason for not doing anything about slavery--lack of imagination, by which I mean both the ability of ordinary Americans to look right through the Negroes around them and the inability of leading ones to devise even small-scale schemes to give emancipated slaves the substance as well as the appearance of freedom. Look right through us, they do that today. We are the invisible people. That's why we work in white people's homes, take care of their old people, work in their hospitals. And if we were what they say we are and if we responded to them the way they would respond to us, the way they responded to England, all we would do when we're in those hospitals is change labels on medication, change the names on some of these prescriptions, these charts, and when medication was administered it would be something that would kill rather than cure. But black people were so trusted, they were so loyal, and that confidence was justifiably placed.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Because, unfortunately, that was the reaction of many black people to our enslavement. Instead of taking up arms and, as Shakespeare said, putting an end to the degradation, to the enslavement, slaves were better than those who purportedly owned them. Ideology, by which I mean the rising American commitment to the principle of equality. And I will stop until I'm recognized because my light is on. Thank