

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

April 22, 2005      LR 8

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, if I say I hate this Constitution of the United States, why will I nevertheless speak in behalf of it and the Constitution of the state of Nebraska? You have to take what you can get, and do the best you can with it. There is nothing else I have with which to work other than a document which recognizes property in me and my people. I cannot forget what was done to my ancestors. You all didn't have it happen. Your ancestors were doing it. You don't even like to hear this. But you pretend not to understand how resentful and bitter those of us are whose ancestors did it. And by "did it," I mean suffered what was inflicted on us through slavery. And America was a slave nation longer than it has supposedly been free. But I want to read what was said in this constitution. If some black man, black woman, or black child had enough heart, nerve, courage, and ingenuity to try to escape this hellish condition imposed by white Christians, what would happen to that person? If you escaped slavery, George Washington felt that his slaves should have their ears clipped, their noses clipped. And others wanted to brand letters in their face, on their cheeks. White Christians branding black people like animals. And we're supposed to forget it, overlook it, act like America means to us what it means to you all? That would be insane for us. And any black person who adopts that attitude is insane. It's based on self-hatred. And when a person hates himself or herself, the psyche disintegrates, the mind falls apart, the reason departs. And people, as they sense this happening, will turn to alcohol, drugs, violence, suicide. There are reasons why people behave as they do. There are reasons why I behave the way as I do. And I'm not going to apologize or take low. I'm going to read from the white people's constitution. Article IV, Section 2 of the Constitution of the United States of America: No person held to slavery...held to service, excuse me. Freudian slip. I was telling the truth. Let me read the white people's language. "No Person held to Service or Labour in one State, under the Laws thereof, escaping into another,"...workers don't escape. If you're talking about workers here, because you use words "Service or Labour," why do you use the word "escape"? Everybody knew what this meant. But they didn't want future generations to know how venal, how vicious they were. "No Person held to Service or Labour in one State, under the Laws