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

April 22, 2005 LR 8

one time, give in one time. If you give in once, you're whatever having given in makes you. How many lies do you have to tell before you're a liar? How many acts of betrayal do you have to commit before you are a traitor? And on and on and on. So let them tell you, just give this vote. And to be frank about it, again, it cannot hurt me. Even if this wound up in the constitution of the state of Nebraska, it cannot hurt me at all. I just thought of something. Being so long dead and so short alive, someone may ask, why should anyone strive? A lot of people answer, you shouldn't. So they become knots on logs, and like lumps of clay. But there are others who are moved by different forces. So as long as I am here, there are things that I'm going to resist, and things that I'm going to support. I'm going to resist every effort to dilute, weaken, or any way...in any way demean the state's constitution. As happens under the federal constitution, the rights of black people, women, poor people, other ethnic and language minorities are violated. But here's the question those of us who are oppressed will ask. If these terrible things can be done, if these terrible things can happen with a constitution, what would happen and what would be done without it? So I repeat again, you take whatever poor tool you find at your disposal, and you do the best that you can with it. If I were facing 40 thieves, I would like to have at least 39 other people with me if I But if I didn't, then I have to do the best that I can. could. Let's say that somebody has heard me talk, somebody as big as a...tall as a pine tree, and strong as the coffee that some people like to drink, would walk up to me and take a steel crowbar and snap it in his hand and say, Chambers, that shows you how powerful I am; now I'm going to do the same thing to Well, if he can snap a crowbar, he certainly should be able to break bone. But having been shown that, do you think I'm just going to stand there and docilely let him break my bones like he'd break a nonresisting crowbar? He might get a banquet, but I'd try to get a sandwich along the way. So I'd do the best I can in the circumstances I find myself facing. There might be enough senators who will go along to get along, and vote to move this provision, knowing it ought not go anywhere, knowing it ought not be submitted to the public, knowing that it should not be made a part of the constitution. Being a practical politician, I deal with realities. I try to change