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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 682

Bourne. Senator Chambers, followed by Senator Bourne, on the motion to return.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President and members of the Legislature, since I'm confident that this bill will be returned, I will have an opportunity at that point to discuss the bill itself and some of the issues that are involved. But I've got to purge my spirit, purge my soul on this particular issue. It is surprising to me that there's not outrage throughout the state. It's a surprise to me that this man could have any defenders. You know why I say that? I come from one of the poorest districts in Omaha. I come from one of the districts where people who live there, being black like myself, people are more reviled and discriminated against than anywhere else in the state with the possible exception of Latinos and in some places Native Americans. But as a whole and on the whole, black people are the victims of all of the stereotypes, the hatred, the racist slurs and so forth. Even a baseball coach from the University of Oklahoma, in calling himself complimenting a young black guy, used the worst possible racial slur in the process. So when white people want to show respect for me, they use a racial slur and I'm supposed to overlook it and say, well, he was saying nice things about me, it just happened that the word came out. The coach said, that word does not represent his values. Well, the Holy "Bible" says, of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaketh. As a man is in his heart, so is he. So when those things come out, that tells you what the person is. Hergert engaged in knowing, intentional violations of the law. The man committed crimes, and I'm going to carry through on what I said about talking to the Attorney General about seeing if he will prosecute. The difficulty of proving a case has never been a basis alone not to bring it. The facts in this case are clear. The public statements of this man can be documented. The laws that he violated can be shown to have been violated. And when you put all of the circumstances together, you have a circumstantial case stronger than some that have been used to get a person the death penalty. So I don't need the Attorney General, I don't need Daley at the commission, or any senator telling me that there's circumstantial evidence, you don't have a smoking gun, and all of these other whining alibis, because they fear to take this