

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

May 17, 2005

LB 312

that as long as there is discrimination against black people, I'm going to make sure that others be discriminated against, because as the man who wrote who wrote The Divine Comedy put in Satan's mouth, or Mephistopheles, "It is a solace to the wretched to have companions in grief," which has been changed to "Misery loves company." It is no solace to me to know that there are people being discriminated against in the way that my people are discriminated against. I'm not interested in seeing that happen. Although I do not take the "Bible" to be divinely inspired, there are words in it which have as much validity as Aesop's Fables, Grimm's Fairy Tales, Greek and Roman mythology, the writings of philosophers, and others. And I would answer the question that Cain put to God, "Am I my brother's keeper?" I would say my brother and my sister's keeper, and the answer is yes. To add a bit of levity, there was a gorilla who could read and could sign, and when that question was put to the gorilla, "Am I my brother's keeper?" the gorilla signed back, "I am my keeper's brother." There is a connection, an interconnection, between and among all living creatures. Nobody knows what goes on in the mind of what are called the lower animals. We do, however, know what goes on in the mind of human beings. We know what is troubling to their emotions, we know what can crush, oppress, and distress their spirit. Poets down through the ages have tried to explain things to those who are less sensitive. Essayists have tried to do the same thing. Poets, essayists, philosophers, do not become legislators. So, despite the fact that there are universities that teach what are called liberal arts courses, the courses suitable for a free person--that's what "liberal" meant, those who are free--to elevate the spirit, ennoble the mind, put one on the path to trying to make the world a better place for everybody. Although those courses are still taught in universities and are praised and used by universities to try to draw more students...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...because they produce a better person, legislators often are immune to such ideas. This Legislature has shown more awareness and sensitivity to and on this issue than I had any right, based on the past, to expect. Since the momentum seems to be there, I'm going to try to continue moving