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January 9, 2006 LB 542

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Maybe so. That's...

SENATOR BURLING: ...that could lead to a lot of more...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...that's no argument against doing what I'm suggesting.

SENATOR BURLING: No.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: It just indicates that you have a bill here that is woefully inadequate in terms of addressing the significant issues that have a direct bearing on the economic viability of this state. But if that's not what you anticipate, I will not offer it as an amendment at this time, because I have other things that go more to the language of the bill itself. But I wanted to...that's all I will ask you. Thank you, Senator Burling. I wanted to alert you and others to the fact that there are issues that I intend to discuss this session, which may not be mentioned by name in these bills. There are times and places when things are crafted, words are uttered, which do not mention me and people of my complexion explicitly, but they relate directly to us. There are code words, there are buzzwords which refer to me and mine, and I'm not going to let this Legislature get away with skimming across the surface and pretending that all is well in Zion, that all is at peace in Zion. If during these remaining three years that I have, provided I don't croak--no applause--or the world doesn't come to an end, I have an obligation to try to bring the policies of this state closer to a standard of justice, fairness, equality. I would like to say brotherhood and sisterhood, but that's so far down the line that I cannot even see it. There are some things far more basic and fundamental which are lacking in this state, in its laws, in its policies. There is no need in our being in this Legislature and pretending that an issue which is discussed in the newspapers, an issue involving people who, when they are discussed, are described as though they're criminals, not persons protected by the Constitution of the United States. The education is so pitiful in this state, the understanding so abysmal, that the citizens don't even know that there are categories in the U.S. Constitution. There are some privileges