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

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If their religion means no more to them than to bring it in here and have it tainted and tarnished in this kind of environment. all they're telling me is that it's worthless, it doesn't mean anything. Their Jesus is right in there with waste treatment plants, cattle feeding, all of the issues we deal with. And you know good and well, just like I do, that Jesus has nothing to do with what happens in this Legislature, if he's anything like what the myth and the legends say. But let me continue. Many senators appreciate that consideration, meaning that a preacher get up there and won't talk about Jesus. But it does not influence Omaha senator Ernie Chambers, who professes no religion, but is one of the most frequent Bible quoters in the entire body. I do that to try to use the language that these people supposedly understand, and according to which they allegedly direct their lives. But when I see them full of old John Barleycorn, I wonder just how much impact Jesus has. Maybe when they're running around with these lobbyists and getting ready to turn up another one, they ought to ask, what would They sure don't want to ask that. What they would Jesus do? say is, Jesus ought to mind his own business and stay in the church and stay out of politics. Then leave him out of this Legislature. I don't go sticking my nose in the church. I don't ask the preacher to let me come up there and give my views to his congregation. Then stay in his congregation. He doesn't need to come over here. Nobody is influenced by anything any of these preachers will have to say. Let me continue. Chambers pointedly stays away from the Chamber during the prayers as an act of protest. But he listens on TV, and often refers to them during legislative debate. During his recent filibuster on a bill that would give landlords new powers to evict renters, Chambers commented, quote, every morning, even though I don't participate, somebody stands up here and prays, and most of them wind up invoking the name of Jesus. But after the invocation is over, then Jesus is evicted from the Legislature, just like they want to evict these poor tenants, because we now get down to business, and this is the business Jesus does not know anything about. In 1980,... I hope you all are upset that I'm taking this time, because I'm upset every time you invite these preachers in here, and I'm going to take my time and your time. And I don't care if those of you who have left the floor have left it. You're out there listening. I know you're listening and