

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

January 18, 2006 LB 57

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, they don't have to hold it down on my account. I'll just talk louder. The other day I pointed out why people mill around, and said it's not rude. Well, it is rude. It is disrespectful. But I'm accustomed to being disrespected in the Legislature, and let them do it. I've even told black people to watch and see how these white people carry on. And when they start telling these young people, you sit up in the classroom and listen, tell them to watch their Legislature. So you can do anything you want to. It makes me no difference. I'm accustomed to you. I've been among you for 35 years, and nothing has changed, and nothing will change. There is a commercial on the television, put there by OPS, talking about why there should be one school district in the city, and they mention that the schools are becoming increasingly segregated, and that's against the law. Who segregates the schools in Omaha? The Omaha Public Schools system. Who floated a \$250 million bond issue for the purpose of resegregating the schools? The Omaha Public School District. Who prevents there from being adequate textbooks, supplies, and qualified teachers in the schools that black children attend, those segregated, inferior schools in Omaha? The Omaha Public Schools system. Black people are not going to be treated fairly anywhere. There is racism in this country, throughout this country. And I try to explain to black people that wherever you go, whatever you do, these white people are never going to respect you, never. The racism is there, and that's why they do it. And you better be strong and you better be able to stand up to them. Look them in the eye, don't swallow spit, and don't you blink first. Don't back away from them. Show them what a black man and a black woman can do and will be about in a system which has discriminated against us, which has segregated us for the purpose of discrimination, ever since we were in the world, and before we came into this world. So you all need not believe that anything you do is going to impede me in any respect, in any manner. So I'm going to press right on with what it is that I'm doing, and you keep in your mind the fact that I understand what you're about, and I know what the racist inclination is, not just of the people here: the newspapers, the radio stations, the televisions. We see the way black people are portrayed and characterized. But you all, when you leave here,