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FLOOR DEBATE

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Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I'm going to show you how little respect the society has for these preachers. If I want to hold out to the public that I'm a lawyer, I've got to be able to present some credentials. I must show that I successfully completed training at an accredited school of law, that I've taken the bar examination and joined the lawyers' union, which you must join or you can't practice law, and I refuse to do that. If I hold myself out to the public as being a doctor, I've got to show credentials. A podiatrist, an ophthalmologist, people want to see credentials. But if I say I'm a preacher, people immediately say, how you doing, Rev? Because being a preacher don't mean nothing. Every ragtag, bobtailed con man, liar, cheat, thief will call himself a preacher. At least the snake oil salesman has the decency to let people know what he is, but these preachers hide and pretend to be something that they're not. I don't know who invited him here, but whoever invited him obviously was tricked, misled, and deceived. And when you have a deliberate deceiver he is of his father, the devil, sayeth the "Bibble." Why would he deceive a senator after having been given these conditions under which he can encumber that podium? Because he intends not to abide by the rules, and if he said that honestly and forthrightly, his "donkey" would not have been up there this morning. So he lied, he misled, he dissembled and gave the impression that he was something which he was not. The term "hypocrite" came from the old Greece days, Grecian days, when people who were actors wore masks and the one behind the mask was a hypocrite, and it was not, in the beginning, a pejorative word, but it has come to be pejorative and mean those who fly a false flag, who present a false front, who mislead, trick and deceive people in order to take advantage of them. Whoever invited him this morning is not the one that I'm condemning, particularly, any more than I condemn the Legislature generally for engaging in a practice that allows that type of thing to happen. It's divisive, it is insulting, and who on the floor is going to stand and say the day got a better start as a result of what happened up there this morning? You all create opportunities from me...for me. When do I talk about religion? When you all invite it in here. Don't bring it in here, and I still may comment on it from time