

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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FLOOR DEBATE

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SENATOR CHAMBERS: Did he mark a box?

SENATOR BAKER: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: What is his political affiliation?

SENATOR BAKER: Democrat.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I think my time is up but my light is on.

SENATOR CUDABACK: You may continue.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Oh. Thank you, Mr. President. Senator Baker, I think I heard Senator Loudon say, as I was engaged in a discussion with Senator Mines and Senator Heidemann, that gender didn't make any difference in his opinion. It depends on the capability or qualification of the person. In an ideal society, that would be perhaps true. But in a society that is cleaved on the basis of class, race, gender, sexual orientation, and any number of other matters, a person's gender fits into the package that is called qualification. I do believe that the gender of a person in America has a tremendous amount to do with what that person's attitude is about anything and everything. If you turn on the television set, you will see that gender has a tremendous amount to do with who gets to be a news anchor because men can look more haggard and weather-beaten than I do and be anchors. But a woman has to look like she just stepped out of a beauty salon. She even has to have her fingernails manicured when they will not show up on the camera. Who in this room can honestly say that gender does not play a role in the types of positions that women are allowed to hold in this society? A woman's age has a much greater impact on what is available for her than it does in the case of a man. Do you think for one minute they would take an old woman and make her queen of Ak-Sar-Ben and put some young stud up there with her as the king? Who in here believes that--an old woman for the queen and a young stud for the king? Why, people would say something is terribly wrong there. Why would they say it's wrong? An old woman can't like a young man? A young man can't like an old woman? Then why is it not considered strange to have these doddering old men who put their wives in the closet wearing these funny looking