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

April 10, 2006

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, Rule 2, Section 11 says, "Personal privilege shall be, first, those affecting the rights, dignity and integrity of the Legislature collectively." As the oldest serving member, or longest in the body, I feel a responsibility to take issue with some things that were made by those men identified as the high and mighty, the who's who, the elite, the richest in this state, Saturday when they used some very intemperate language to describe the Legislature and legislative action. I've handed out an article so you can read for yourselves, in case you missed some of it, but when men in their position use words such "idiocy" to describe the Legislature, "educational terrorism, " "danger" and so forth, that cannot be allowed to pass without comment. They were extolling what they call racial diversity, but you saw up there a solid phalanx of old white men in palatial, swanky surroundings in the Joslyn Art Museum. Behind them was a very ornate door. It would have been more effective because of what they were professing to do--namely, express concern about segregation in the schools -- to not be there at Joslyn, but to go to one of the disadvantaged, segregated academies in Omaha, which OPS has segregated, and stand in the hallway of one of those schools and make their hypocritical comments. When Mr. Buffett said that he brags about Nebraska, and one of the centerpieces of his bragging is the public school system, I wonder if Mr. Buffett is bragging about the segregated black academies. Is he bragging about the fact that every year there are failing test grades behind everybody else? I wonder if he's bragging about the fact that these schools were deliberately resegregated by John Mackiel, the superintendent of schools. So when these white men extolling diversity are not paragons of diversity themselves in their personal lives or in their businesses, we saw an exercise in hypocrisy, and it was an unfair and slanderous attack against the Legislature which was not merited. Because first of all, those men had not read the amendment that they called themselves discussing, they ignored the fact that the schools are segregated already, and they would not acknowledge that they were as mute as the Rock of Gibraltar when Mackiel is the one who resegregated the schools. They did not point out that the proposition that the Legislature adopted follows attendance