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LB 280

discussion is the amendment by Senator Chambers. To introduce your amendment, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I listened very carefully to what Senator Jensen said, and he's dividing the world into two camps, the Evil Empire and the Holy Empire. He is a member of the Holy Empire because he chooses to ask the Legislature to set out one particular group, define them, mark them for discrimination, then enact a law aimed and intended to discriminate against that group. To my knowledge, the Legislature has never done that before. This is not the Legislature's finest hour. This is not, in my view, what the Holy Empire ought to be doing. Now a person, such as myself, have been placed by Senator Jensen in the camp of the Evil Empire. We are moral relativists. We have no objective standard of right and wrong, which is unchanging and unchangeable. But do you know what I hear people in Senator Jensen's camp do, when we talk about slavery and the conduct of his white heroes, such as Thomas Jefferson, George Washington, Patrick Henry and other slaveholders, he will say, you can't judge them according to today's standards. They have to be judged according to what were the standards of those times. So it's wrong to apply a more enlightened standard that we have today toward slavery than retroactively applied to those great founders of this Republic and condemn them. They were living in accord with the principles of their day. That's not only what Senator Jensen says, that's what the World-Herald teaches, that's what their leaders at the national level teach, is what the Christian right-wingers teach, and that is the strongest statement of moral relativism that you can find. They're saying that because it was popular to acknowledge property in human beings during those days, it was all right. But now it is not all right because society's standards have changed. He is saying that society does, in fact, set the standards of what is morally right and wrong. So when those people, such as Senator Jensen, will get on their holy high horse and decide to cast condemnation on entire groups of people, whom he does not even know, all you have to do is throw back at them what they have thrown out. They are the moral relativists. Senator Jensen, in this bill, is a moral relativist. It is proved by the fact that he wants to allow marriages between first cousins to be recognized in this state. The state has adopted the policy that