

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

January 21, 1998 LB 896

from Fort Bukloh as fast as he can fly, until he's aware of his father's mare in the gut of Tongue of Jagai, until he's aware of his father's mare and Kamal upon her back, and when he could spy the white of her eye, he made the pistol crack. He has fired once, he has fired twice, but the whistling ball went wide. "You shoot like a soldier," Kamal said. "Show now if you can ride." It's up and over the Tongue of Jagai, as blown dust devils go. I may tell you all more about it later. You ought to read it. It's very interesting. As they proceed, a lesson is taught to the young man who is the son of the man from whom Kamal took the horse. The poem really is about more than a border thief, as he was called, taking a horse. Rudyard Kipling wrote many, many things: The Jungle Book, all these barracks ballads, but he also was a racist and he believed in the white man's burden. He was a jingoist. He believed that people from England were superior to everybody else and he believed in colonialism where the superior or master people lorded over the inferiors or the native peoples. He wrote a poem called "Gunga Din" and people who read this poem are pleased when they read it, but black people who read it are not pleased. It talks about this man who wound up blowing the bugle on his own people. Kipling created an individual who loved the British colonizers more than he cared about his own people, and he tried to make it seem like something was noble about what this individual did who was a traitor, and it talked about how Gunga Din got killed and how he's going to be squatting over the coals in hell continuing to bring water to these white people. A traitor to the end, a subhuman to the end, that's the kind of person Kipling created, then he tried to pay him a compliment...

PFRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...which in fact is the worse insult that can be paid to a black person, whether from Africa, India or any other country where black people are found, and we're in the majority on this earth. He said, though I've belted you and flayed you, by the living God that made you, you're a better man that I am, Gunga Din. But he also said, before he got to that point, and "for all 'is dirty 'ide, 'E was white, clear white, inside" as he sought to tend the British under fire. White, clear white inside, that's supposed to be a compliment to a black man? And this is the stuff that I had to read when I was