

January 8, 1979

SENATOR HABERMAN: Senator Lewis, thank you for your explanation. I have now transferred Senator DeCamp's name from the white book to the black book.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, Senator Kremer was talking about principles that made this country great but I want him to know that some of the people whoweretalking about prayer were also owning my people as property, Senator Kremer, and saying that God created me to be owned as property so you can understand why I am not too impressed by what they say about prayer and individuals whose prayer and God will allow them to try to own me as property, naturally, their God is not my God. But say that we exclude me and just deal with the traditional white religions so that you don't have to talk about slavery and former slave masters and former slaves, which religion should represent the view of Christ, the Baptist, Methodist, Episcopalian, Presbyterian, Catholic or maybe we should have a rabbi. Just who should it be? The Seventh-Day Adventist are a recognized religion. So are the Jehovah Witnesses. Now from some of the things that I presented to the Board the other day, I found out I forgot a couple of things. If the prayer in these discussions are going to be used to inject religion and Christ into legislative proceedings, you have made them fair game for me and remember that I am telling you that I can show you historical works and people sitting in the Continental Congress and those who wrote the Constitution who owned slaves. Therefore, I can talk very disparagingly about the things that supposedly mean something dear to the people who saw nothing wrong with owning me as property. So if you want to inject religion in Christ, have at it, but if you are going to pray, it would be better to pray to Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck because people's feelings won't get hurt when I take them to task. Now I've pointed out that religion has always been a creator of divisions and hostility. The inquisition, the crusades and the religious battle which is going on in this Legislature right now, you talk about Christ as the Prince of Peace and we are engaged in a war to determine which brand of merchant is going to represent the Prince of Peace. Now here is a question for your consideration, and, Senator Kremer, the Bible did say who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean thing, know not one. Is it not counterproductive to hire a religion merchant who everytime he offers his wares to his employers triggers resentment and hostility in some. Is this the meaning of Christianity? Is this how peace and good will are engendered? Is this the way the gentle Christ that people want to hold up and shake in front