

MCCABE

And to you sir. (They shake hands. Lights down and up on ORA.)

WOMAN

Well, six years later Reverend Fairfax would succeed. His neighbors in Chautauqua County elected him as the first African-American to serve in the Kansas Legislature. He served only one term but the good Reverend didn't waste time fighting the evil of racism and discrimination. He spoke out to integrate the schools of Kansas. The day was February 1, 1889.

(Lights down WOMAN, lights up FAIRFAX speaking to the legislature.)

FAIRFAX

Mr. Speaker I have often asked myself why is there prejudice against the Negro and found this answer. For 200 years the white man, knowing that slavery was wrong, sought by every means - through the press, the pulpit and the schoolhouse - to inculcate the Negro was not a man.

This was done as one of the means to justify their cruel system of slavery and still the pangs of conscience.

The white man of the North to a great extent also believed this theory and thus the prejudice of the Negro penetrated the body of the nation. Slavery continued to flourish until it involved this country in the bloodiest war the nation every knew.

When this Grand Old Party to which I belong made the Negro a soldier he demonstrated to the nation he was a man!

Mr. Speaker I am pained when I see native born American children, who love as I do their native country, forced to leave the district in which they live, in which their parents reside, pay taxes and vote, and travel across town, passing two or three schoolhouses, on their way to attend a school set apart as a colored school.

Mr. Speaker, the Negro is peculiarly situated. The world is like a grand avenue in which every race may pursue its career, rushing, pushing, each seeking to outstrip the other. The Negro may enter, but at every step he meets obstacles in his way to hinder and delay him.

In every occasion the doors are shut to the citizen with dark skin. Not because of any act of his own, but because of a color God gave him and a social condition the white man forced upon them by their unjust laws.

Shall we encourage such prejudice by allowing school boards to discriminate on account of color in the public schools of our state?