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DEMOCRATIC CARIBBEAN CAUCUS OF FLORIDA



News Corner

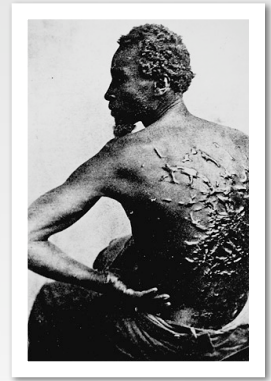
**Democratic Caribbean Caucus of Florida
DCCF Applauds Florida State Senator
Anthony C. "Tony" Hill and the Florida State
Legislature Apologizes for its past Slavery**

Historical documents show that many slaves in Florida's past were from the Caribbean basin (black Seminoles – Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia). The Florida State Senator Anthony C. "Tony" Hill from Jacksonville Florida sponsored the resolution which formally apologized for the Tallahassee Florida Legislature's long support of slavery and called for reconciliation. "(Southern Florida Sun-Sentinel) March 28, 2008 the Florida House passed the resolution apologizing for state slavery laws dating back to 1822 –decades became Florida even became a state-that "perpetuated African slavery in one of its most brutal dehumanizing forms."

Slaves could be subject to 39 lashes of a whip, administered to a bare back for

addressing a white person with language deemed by a white to be abusive or offensive. For crimes as common as robbery, slaves could have their ears nailed to wooden posts for hours or even sentence to death.

The Journal of the House of Representatives, (SCR 2930), Wednesday, March 26, 2008. In 1822 Richard Keith Call a member of the Territorial Council of Florida wrote a letter to Pennsylvania in which he made the Southern case for slavery.



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DEMOCRATIC CARIBBEAN CAUCUS OF FLORIDA



Sen. Tony Hill, D-Jacksonville, left, hugs Senate President Ken Pruitt, R-Port St. Lucie, after the state House passed a resolution apologizing for Florida's role in slavery. Hill and Pruitt are co-sponsors of the resolution.

Photo Courtesy of St. Petersburg Times

The letter describes “persons of African descent” in these words and I quote:

“Here was an animal, in the form of a man, possessing the greatest physical power, and the greatest capacity for labor and endurance, without one principle of his nature, on faculty of mind of feeling of heart, without spirit or pride of character, to enable him to regard

slavery as a degradation. A wild barbarian, to be tamed and civilized by the discipline of slavery.” End of quote. (Call 1861)

By 1860, at the onset of the Civil War and more than 50 years after slavery was outlawed in federal law, some 44 percent of Florida's 140,000 residents were slaves.

The resolution pointed out that although the slave-era laws are gone, they should not be forgotten. “Even though the laws permitting such injustice have been repealed,” the resolution concluded, “it is important the Legislature expresses profound regret for the shameful chapter in this state's history and , in so doing, promote healing and reconciliation among all Floridians.”