

1 gives to the humblest, the poorest, the most despised
2 of the race, the same right and the same protection before
3 the law as it gives to the most powerful, the most wealthy
4 or the most haughty.

5 Well, it is history, and I am sure you are all
6 aware of it, that a series of Supreme Court decisions
7 greatly curtailed the effect of this amendment. In the
8 Slaughter House cases, and in Plessy V. Ferguson, which
9 was the famous case that permitted equal but separate
10 rights, and Hurtado V. California, which held that the
11 right to grand jury action was not a matter of due
12 process, and in a dozen other particular and peculiar
13 decisions the great effect of the 14th Amendment was
14 largely ignored.

15 It wasn't until modern times that the 14th
16 Amendment, a great slumbering giant, really came into
17 its own, and we now find that it is now one of the most
18 important influences in our lives with respect to personal,
19 individual freedoms and rights.

20 Back in '25, the Supreme Court stated that
21 the First Amendment guaranteeing freedom of press and