

May 2, 1977

LB 543

this is a legal procedure, the problem is not the abortion, the problem is that action which leads to abortion. For the legislative body to say we are going to tell you how to run your teaching institution, we are going to decide, because we don't many of us, do not personally like the idea of abortion. Therefore, we will limit in the hopes that that will somehow stop abortions. This is not a realistic point of view. In fact, it is not being fair with our own constituents. Because, if you did pass this amendment you could say, well I have helped stop abortions, but in fact you only push it some other direction. By this action you draw more attention to it. I urge you not to adopt this amendment. Yes, it is an emotional issue. I urge you not to adopt this amendment to LB 543.

PRESIDENT: Senator Dworak.

SENATOR DWORAK: Mr. President, colleagues, I rise strongly in support of Senator Labeledz amendment. I think that it is perfectly right and proper that this body set policy. We are a policy setting body. I think that the policy that is being followed at the University Medical Hospital by the statistics that Senator Labeledz just cited is contrary to the vast constituency in the State of Nebraska. It is contrary to the vote that this body cast on this particular issue. Granted, the Supreme Court did say that abortion was legal. Granted, that it is a proper function, teaching function of the University Hospital in Omaha, but I think by the same token when we look at the number 514 as opposed to the other medical procedures performed at the University Hospital we are balancing out of proportion. I think that it is right and proper that this body again inform the University Hospital and also confirm the thinking of the people in Nebraska that we are opposed basically to this principle and will continue to oppose it and that we should bring this within a proper balance.

PRESIDENT: Senator Neil Simon.

SENATOR SIMON: First I would like to preface my remarks because they may seem a little incongruous, but my opening remarks are that I am opposed to abortion. Now, I have some questions of Senator Labeledz if she will yield. Senator Labeledz, the people that go to the University for abortions, what type of social economic classification would they generally fall under?

SENATOR LABEDZ: You mean as far as income level?

SENATOR SIMON: Yes.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Well I have a six or seven page report here as far as married, single and so forth, but they did not send me any statistics as far as income level, I don't know whether they have that.

SENATOR SIMON: Well would you suppose that it would fall within the upper 25% of the income level?

SENATOR LABEDZ: Oh, I would suppose so, yes.

SENATOR SIMON: That they would? I would say probably the bottom 25.

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