

March 8, 1979

LB 316

which doctors are performing abortions in this state. I would think that a woman who is going to have an abortion should have this made available to her. You might call it sunshine legislation, Senator Hoagland. We know how many appendectomies, we know how many tonsillectomies are performed in this state, but with the passage of 316 we are not going to know how many abortions are being performed. If it is so righteous, why are we wanting to give the doctors the right to privacy? That is exactly what we are doing with this bill. Ladies and gentlemen, let me reiterate again. The courts have not said that a doctor has the right to privacy. If you can show me where a court decision has said that, then I will withdraw my amendments. The issue is very simple. I don't want the doctors to have that right to privacy and ladies and gentlemen of this Legislature, I don't think the public wants the doctors to have that right to privacy. You know, it bugs the hell out of those doctors to know that their names are a part of public record. Yes, it does. It bugs them. They don't like that. They don't like that in the least, and that is why I am hoping that perhaps my amendments have a chance here this morning.

SPEAKER MARVEL: One minute.

SENATOR VENDITTE: Ladies and gentlemen, I think what we are doing is a travesty. I hope that you can understand exactly what I am saying and perhaps maybe Senator Hoagland, Senator Johnson, who were the people that introduced this amendment at the compromise hearings wherever they were held and whenever they were held, can tell this Legislature without a question of a doubt that a doctor has been given a right to privacy in any court decision in this country and if they can, if they can, I will withdraw my amendments. If they can't, then I think this Legislature owes perhaps, and can give some attention to the amendments that I have put before you here this morning. Don't, don't, don't give the doctors that right to privacy. The State of Illinois, in Chicago in particular, you can see what has happened there. The same thing can happen right here in the State of Nebraska if we so decide to leave the bill as it is now.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Time is up. The Chair recognizes first Senator Fowler and then Senator Cullan. Senator Fowler.

SENATOR FOWLER: Well, first, I guess I would urge the Legislature to turn to page 551 of the Journal which contains Warren Urbom's discussion with regards to record-