

March 8, 1979

LB 316

and I think as Pat kind of indicated to you, he doesn't want these doctors to have any privacy. He wants to know who they are so we can get them. I don't think that is the right purpose of the law. Now there are so many major things in this bill, the informed consent, the minors, the right of refusal, all these things. Why now take the bill at this juncture and use it for this other purpose and risk everything. I guess I urge you to reject the amendment.

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Cope.

SENATOR COPE: Mr. President, members, a question of Senator Hoagland.

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Hoagland, would you respond please?

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Yes, I will.

SENATOR COPE: Senator Hoagland, am I correct in assuming that all surgical procedures must be filed with the Health Department with the doctor's signature and so forth?

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Currently the bill as written, Senator Cope, does provide for that.

SENATOR COPE: And this is going to be the same as is now practiced. In other words, there will be no difference.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: I really can't speak... I should take back what I said earlier. I really can't speak for general surgical procedures in the state, but what I do know is the bill as presently written requires a doctor to report that an abortion has been performed and the form will identify the name of the doctor, yes.

SENATOR COPE: Now are these records at the present time of all other surgical procedures, are they open to the public?

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Senator Cope, I would say very likely not, very likely not, because patients have privacy rights and other rights to maintain the confidentiality of their medical records. As a matter of fact, before the Appropriations Committee a week ago you will recall we had some medical records nurses come testify about the extreme importance to protect patients rights and maintain a confidentiality of medical records information.