

April 14, 1980

LB 1004

too well this year anyway. Now we are taking away in essence a part of their compensation in the form of a benefit they are getting from some of those people by saying that they no longer will have a particular coverage. All the second part of the amendment does is to state as follows: "and further provided that all public employees who are presently covered for abortions prohibited from coverage hereunder shall be compensated in full for the cost of purchasing coverage for abortions". In other words, everybody that is getting compensation right now, in effect, for this coverage, I am saying the state has to turn around and pay them for getting the coverage that they presently have. I don't think this has anything to do with the abortion issue. It has to do with the compensation issue. In other words, if you go with the Dworak amendment the way it is now, you are, in effect, saying they are going to be compensated less. So those are the two parts of the amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman, I would support Senator Beutler's amendment as I would have supported Senator Fowler's had I been given the opportunity to speak before the calling of the question, and I think this amendment even as amended is very arrogant. It takes a type of procedure which is recognized as a legitimate surgical procedure and denies coverage and an insurance program to the female who would be affected by it. But there is nothing that a male could get that would not be covered. So I think what we ought to do is put "no male who gets V.D.", or any other ailments connected with the sexual organs should be covered by this type of insurance program. We are dealing with individual people's attitudes toward sex...old, outmoded attitudes based on how I feel, and they ought not be injected into the legislative process. However, with all due respect to Senator Dworak, and I do have a lot of respect for Senator Dworak, when you attempt to do things as is being attempted here, mistakes are made. Senator Haberman, do you remember your LB 605, wherever you are, Senator Haberman, if you look at Senator Dworak's amendment, forget what Senator Fowler added and Senator Beutler is offering, line 13...coverage will be provided for medical...for coverage for medical complications arising from an abortion, any abortion, of...and abortions self-induced, an illegal abortion. So you are not going to let the state pay for a legitimate medical practice, but you will let the state pay for the results of an illegal medical practice. Now how intelligent is that? If we are talking

10076