

April 14, 1980

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about what is proper and what is right and are not rushing headlong to put one particular religious notion into the statutes, this blunder would not have occurred. It is saying that the state's medically paid for insurance coverage will not go to pay for legal abortion, but if somebody gets an illegal abortion and complications arise, the coverage is there. Is that the intent, Senator Venditte? Senator Labeledz? I know that for some of the hardliners what I am saying does not make any difference at all, but I would advise those of you who helped me torture and mutilate Senator Haberman's LB 605 ought to consider this amendment that you have got here. Personally, I like it like this. The abortion issue more than any other one has revealed the lack of willingness of the Legislature to be concerned about the Constitution or good legislation writing. So this is par for the course. I am just calling it to your attention so the record will be clear once again that I kept my senses about me and threats of hit lists or whatever else makes no difference whatsoever. In fact, I enjoy that, but Senator Dworak, what I am saying I think perhaps you ought to consider, because I believe that you are meaning the things that you said earlier, so you all can take it or leave it. But I am supporting Senator Beutler's amendment.

SENATOR CLARK PRESIDING

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Fowler.

SENATOR FOWLER: Mr. President, I rise to support Senator Beutler's amendment. I think that he raises the question when we start talking about abortions in which situations. We should try and decide within the Legislature certain circumstances when, in fact, all of us could agree that abortions should be justified. Senator Beutler said this question of abortions in the case of sexual assault has been debated before. Many times it has been considered when we have looked at constitutional...requests for constitutional amendments, and it is interesting to note that this amendment already has certain exceptions for abortions, so it is not any sort of question of a total principle of being against every abortion in every circumstance. So now we have before us from the introducer of the amendment itself an open question as to when an abortion is something that is acceptable and something that should be paid for with public funds, and when is an abortion something that we feel should not be paid for with public funds but paid for by the woman, and I think that Senator Beutler makes a very, very good case in his amendment for circumstance, for type

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