

February 26, 1981

LB 125

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Marsh. We are speaking to the Haberman amendment and I would remind you of the one hour limit on time. Senator Marsh.

SENATOR MARSH: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I have some questions I would present to Senator Haberman please.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Haberman, do you yield?

SENATOR HABERMAN: Yes.

SENATOR MARSH: Senator Haberman, Senator Dworak said, "Public funds should not be used for abortion", do you have some facts and figures about how many public funds have been used this past year for abortion?

SENATOR HABERMAN: Since July 1 of 1980 the Nebraska state employees have not been covered with abortion insurance and the premium has not been reduced.

SENATOR MARSH: Senator Haberman, how much was the cost then increased when there was abortion insurance?

SENATOR HABERMAN: From all of the fiscal agents that have been contacted, from Blue Cross through the state, from the county, City of Omaha, City of Lincoln, there would be no increase in cost if the abortion or if this amendment was adopted.

SENATOR MARSH: The persons who have presented this bill to the Legislature have emphasized and continue to emphasize that they do not want the public's money to be spent for the purpose of abortions, but in fact, there is no dollar difference as the information presented us in cost of coverage. So it is not the issue of spending public dollars for the coverage of abortion. I do not feel that an individual who has already been the victim of incest or rape should be denied what could be available in the way of health insurance. Senator Higgins mentions that a woman knows what to do but that still takes dollars. If that coverage were available that would be helpful. But the intent is very clear as to what the introducers of this proposal are trying to do, therefore, I urge since it appears to be moving rapidly forward in our body to please insert protection for those who are victims of incest or rape. Most persons agree they should not be punished twice as victims. Being a victim is bad enough in itself without having to go to a neighbor or a church or another organization to say, "Please help with my medical cost for something that is so very distasteful in the first place."