

March 3, 1981

LB 125

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I rise to oppose LB 125. I understand that was not the closing but simply the motion to move the bill so I believe my statements are in order. It seems to me that the proponents of LB 125 fall in a phalanx of proponents of a series of bills and their concerns change depending on the bill. At one time they are claiming to support those oppressed taxpayers who have to support dollars being spent in other communities that they don't morally agree with. We can talk about the bill on the health clinic in Omaha and the concern for postoperative care. Having screamed and harassed at them going into the place, there is a great concern about their postoperative care later on. And we have had this bill in the past concerned about state employees who had to contribute against their will, last year we heard that argument. The arguments over and over again pose defenses and supports and logical debate on behalf of all kinds of people but, in fact, one point of view is being expressed. Let us find any and all means to end abortion. Let us find any and all means constitutional, unconstitutional, to restrict the choice for women. That is a policy represented at the heart of LB 125. It has been the thread, the common thread throughout all of the issues that have touched on this devious central moral, ethical and political question that faces us all and it is because there is one underlying question that I can find myself at all times clear with respect to these kinds of bills. There is at the heart of this the philosophical issue of what is life and it is a trick of the light. It is a trick of philosophical sophistry. It is a kind of question that is born by the same people who gave you such things as how many angels dance on the head of the pin; does the wine and the bread turn into the body of Christ in our mouth. It is a theological colloquy that goes back centuries. It is insoluble. It is personal in nature, and from which we have tried to create a political majority to force that point of view on a philosophical question on everybody. On the one hand then we have this philosophical colloquy on behalf of certain moralists, and on the other hand, and I understand that this may not be comfortable for you to listen to which is why perhaps you are not, you have a body of evidence of human misery that is absolutely unquestionable...

PRESIDENT: Let's have a little less noise. It is very difficult for anyone to hear the speaker. So please pay attention to Senator Landis who is trying to make some points for his argument. Senator Landis, proceed.