

March 3, 1981

LB 125

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that. The question then again is, on the one hand the philosophical question of what is life, and the attempt to force one answer to that open-ended philosophical question. On the other you have clear evidence of suffering and misery. You have the evidence of coat hanger abortions. You have the evidence of battered unwanted children. You have the evidence of broken homes based on unwanted children. You have the evidence of Scandinavian countries that children born in these instances are more likely to have physical debilitation, more likely to have mental retardation, more likely to have birth defects, less likely to have good health, more likely to commit suicide, and a tremendously clear body of evidence of human suffering and misery that is brought about if there is an end to choice, all in the name of the answering of an open-ended philosophical question that each of us should be able to decide for ourselves. That is what lies at the heart of LB 125. It lies at the heart of all the abortion issues. No matter how remote they get away from that issue, that is the essential question and the evidence is tremendous at the amount of human suffering. It is overwhelming when women no longer have choice but the state informs them and compels them to do with their bodies that which they do not want to do. I am going to vote against 125 and every other bill like it that I see on the floor of the Legislature.

PRESIDENT: The Chair would like to take this opportunity to introduce a guest of Senator Don Wesely, Carl and Jane Ander from his District. Would Mr. & Mrs. Ander please stand and be recognized? Welcome to your Legislature. The Chair recognizes Senator Cope.

SENATOR COPE: Mr. President, members, I call for the question.

PRESIDENT: The question has been called for. Do I see...yes, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman, I don't want to be argumentative at this point but it is a serious issue and we are about to take the most important vote on the bill and I don't think after one person has been able to speak, and I do have my light on and have had it on, that those who are tired of the issue should call for the question and terminate debate, and, Mr. Chairman, I would ask for a ruling from the Chair that in view of the seriousness of the issue and the brief amount of time that has been allowed on this motion that debate not be terminated and that the motion to cease debate at this point be ruled out of order.