

that I just gave you but I think most important, in January 1973 when the decision was made on abortion the statement of abortion guidelines, approved by the House of Delegates in May of that same year, the Nebraska Medical Association stated and approved, "All abortions should be performed in a hospital or in a facility that offers the basic safeguards provided by hospital admission and has immediate hospital backup. Such a facility should be accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals or licensed by the state." And this is what we are trying to do here. We are not saying that abortions cannot be performed at the clinic or at the center or whatever you call it. We are saying that we want them licensed by the state so they would be regulated and that there is proper followup care. I urge the adoption of the committee amendments.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Wesely, do you wish to speak to the committee amendments?

SENATOR WESELY: Yes, Mr. Speaker, members of the body, we did take a look at the bill as introduced by Senator Labeledz and found it to be very unclear. The committee amendments clarify the fact that as far as the section dealing with physician responsibility and the fact that they may lose their license over certain acts of unprofessional conduct, it would add the provision of postcare for abortions that were performed by the physician. So in a sense we clarified that section and made it a fact that a physician would have to provide that care or be threatened I think with the loss of their license also. The question was raised as to licensing of a clinic or a health facility and there were two proposals. One was to place it under the Health Department. The other one was to include it in certificate of need. The idea including abortion clinics in certificate of need was thought not to be appropriate and thus was not included in the committee amendments but the idea that clinics should be regulated as other clinics are, even though they may perform abortions, was thought to be a legitimate purpose and thus, was included in the committee amendments. Hopefully that helps explain what the committee did with the bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Marsh.

SENATOR MARSH: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, for the record I want this body to be very clear of what is before us, both in the amendments and in the proposal itself. It is another mechanism to harass the woman and the physician who choose to perform an abortion or to have an abortion, to participate in any manner in what is a legal procedure. Originally the way the wording for this piece of legislation was conceived was to put all people who had operations, surgery. Only the medical doctors who do tonsillectomies did not choose to be in this. Of course, this body may or may not be aware that there are more complications arising from