

March 30, 1981

LB 466

SENATOR CLARK: Record the vote.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 2 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of committee amendments.

SENATOR CLARK: The committee amendments are adopted. On the bill itself. Senator Labedz. Raise the Call. The Call is raised.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you for adopting the committee amendments because the committee amendments are the bill. In approving these amendments we have assured those individuals who utilize these facilities that safe procedures are available and proper follow-up care is provided and I totally agree with Senator Higgins in what she has to say and I am a little disappointed, of course, in what Senator Marsh had to say because I truly believe that this is not harassment. It is not harassment for the woman. It is protection for the woman and for many many years before abortion was legalized, there was many a many a time and even since then that I have been told over and over that if the Human Life Amendment in Congress is adopted that we will be going back to back alley abortions and to coat hangar abortions but here what I am trying to do is license a facility as a clinic, to offer proper follow-up care for the patient. I believe these regulations are reasonable health regulations which would apply to abortions that are performed in the first trimester. In the Supreme Court case of Connecticut vs. Manillo, 1975, a statute which ascribed an abortion by a nonphysician was upheld. The court stated that Roe vs. Wade teaches that a state physician, to terminate her pregnancy during the first trimester because neither its interest in maternal health nor its interest in the potential life for the fetus is sufficiently great at that stage but the insufficiency of the state's interest in maternal health is predicated upon the first trimester's abortion being as safe for a woman as normal childbirth at term and that predicate holds true only if the abortion is performed by a medically competent personnel under conditions ensuring maximum safety for the woman. What the committee amendments also did which is now the bill, it attempts to do is to ensure maximum safety for women who undergo abortion in facilities which perform ten or more abortions a week. These amendments are the bill now. Also will ensure that a doctor will be available for any complications for a period of up to forty-eight hours and, believe me, if I could show you some letters that I received from parents that their teenaged daughter received an abortion that they didn't know anything about and later, because of complications, they had to inform their parents and be taken to a hospital. And I think when I was on the floor not too long ago I mentioned in the western part