

April 2, 1981

LB 125

not have spoken with the same candor when the issue was first presented. I think that you should realize today that this is not a question of whether group insurance is going to pay for abortion or not. The bill is designed to make it more difficult to have access to abortion. I think the sham has been revealed. This has nothing to do with public funds versus private funds. It is just part of a continuing effort to harrass people who feel for whatever personal reasons that they need an abortion.

SENATOR KAHLE: Senator Marsh.

SENATOR MARSH: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, it should be perfectly clear to every member of this body that although the bill was introduced talking about saving public funds, no public funds...I repeat, no public funds will be saved by LB 125. It is nothing more than a continuation of the harrassment which has been presented and passed on previous dates and previous times in this legislative body. I would like to remind the members of this legislature that we pay the cost by having legislation after legislation go to court. We pay out of our dollars, the people of Nebraska pay for the error of passing unconstitutional provisions. This is not to save dollars but rather will cost the people of Nebraska additional dollars when it is taken to a court case again. Do you recall that the decisions made last year and the year before that, and the year before that went to court? Do you recall that the cost was astronomical and the people of Nebraska did not benefit but rather paid additional dollars because of the poor decisions made in this legislative body relating to the topic of abortion. Abortion is a legal procedure and to deliberately put stumbling blocks in the path is an illegal activity which this body seems intent on doing again, at what cost?

SENATOR KAHLE: Senator Chambers, do you wish to speak on this issue again?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes. Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask Senator Dworak a question. Senator Dworak, in the bill it allows coverage for an abortion which is certified as being necessary to prevent death of the woman. Isn't that correct?

SENATOR DWORAK: Coverage would be available, I believe, under any circumstances. I don't believe the bill precludes coverage for an abortion.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I am talking about the group insurance