

certainly would hate to see this bill jeopardized over a point that is already provided for. I think in this area with the type of things we are talking about that are so important that we can't be too cautious. We can't be too careful and so I would strongly support Senator Marsh's amendment. I think it is critical, anyway it is critical to this senator as to his disposition on this particular piece of legislation.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Nichol.

SENATOR NICHOL: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, I think I support the amendment. Now what I think it says is this, as long as a clergyman, a doctor or a lawyer are dealing with a client they are not required to report child abuse or whatever. But if they are not in the line of employment, if they are not in the line of their duty as a minister or a priest or a doctor or lawyer, they should report it just as the rest of us do. I think it is a pretty good amendment.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Kahle.

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. President, members, maybe someone can help me out but I am confused as to what we are talking about here. I thought that certain professions had what we called professional immunity no matter what. And now can someone tell me does this bill abrogate that situation? I don't see how we can do that. I understood that this bill was more to encourage those people to come forward on their own but that we could not force them to divulge these things if they did not want to. Now Senator Marsh or whoever is promoting the amendment or maybe some of the attorneys in the group, I wish you would enlighten me.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Marsh, do you wish to answer the question?

SENATOR MARSH: Senator Kahle.

SENATOR KAHLE: Senator Marsh, what I was asking is certain professions have professional immunity from divulging certain things. Do they not have that now and does this bill....?

SENATOR MARSH: No, they do not under our current law. Under the abuse statutes of the State of Nebraska all persons including physicians are required to make reports and I have a very interesting statistic on why that has been working well and why it is in. 90% of all physicians reports of suspected abuse are substantiated whereas 30 to 40% of other suspected cases of abuse, in fact, turn out to be abuse but a physician is in such a particularly sensitive spot and that physician has both civil and criminal protec-