

ment and maintain privileged communications if you are going to maintain a system where A and B can discuss their problems, where if you are going to maintain a legal system, if you are going to maintain these things, otherwise I think you are going to discover after you adopt the amendment and advance the bill, that all heck is going to break loose and ultimately the bill is going to be killed. You are not going to in the Nebraska Legislature suspend certain portions of the Constitution against protecting incrimination rights. You are not going to destroy a centuries old tradition of the confidentiality of the confessional. You are not going to do her even though you pass a bill saying you are and about all you are going to accomplish is kill what good the bill could do. The bill does take that first step and say, well look, if Marge, the average citizen, is aware of a problem she has a duty to report it. I think that is a reasonable approach, at least at this time. To try to guarantee that there will never be any person abused by closing all these other systems, I think is awful dangerous.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Senator DeCamp and Senators, being a born and reared Roman Catholic, not one of the best but at least I have been exposed to Catholicism for thirteen, fourteen years of education, in my fifty years I have never known a priest to break the seal of confession but I guess as a Catholic I have to remind my Protestant friends that what a Catholic goes to confession for is to confess his sins. He doesn't go to tell about his mother and father being beat over the head. I think that I am going to have to vote with Senator Marsh on this. I hope Senator DeCamp is wrong, that without the amendment the bill won't pass but I truthfully...and I even asked Bernice a minute ago, "Have you ever heard of a priest breaking the seal of confession?" She said, "No." But I know Bernice is going to vote the opposite way of me on this amendment but remember, when Catholics go to confession and they do it very little anymore, it used to be you had to go at least once a year, now they are begging you to go every five years, but when you go to confession it is to confess your sins, not somebody else's. So if DeCamp is right that we need a yes on this to advance the bill I am going to vote with DeCamp but if we don't need a yes to keep this bill alive, then I am going to vote with Senator Marsh.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Marsh, did you want to speak again on the bill? We have one after you.

SENATOR MARSH: Yes, thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Senator Higgins, the law which has been in effect since 1973 has said that persons who suspected abuse would report abuse.