

on this because she knows that I, too, am very concerned about abuse of the elderly or the abuse of anyone, spouse abuse, child abuse, whatever. Definitely I am in favor of something being done and I, as a neighbor, notice anything in my block where either children or the elderly are abused I certainly will report it but I don't think we should force the clergy to do so. I urge the adoption of the amendment.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Marsh, do you wish to close?

SENATOR MARSH: Senator Labedz, have you heard of any priest or any bishop or any other person who has had a problem with our current legislation the way it was written and has been on the books since 1973?

SENATOR LABEDZ: No, I have not but I certainly don't want them to be forced to report anything. As now, they use their own judgment on it.

SENATOR MARSH: I think that is the way it should continue.

SENATOR LABEDZ: I think an attorney...(both talking at once.)

SENATOR CLARK: Wait a minute, wait a minute, one at a time.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Well she is asking me a question. I am trying to answer. An attorney, a physician and the clergymen will report abuse if they see fit but they certainly should not be forced to do it by saying they "shall" report it.

SENATOR MARSH: Do you think that someone who has the best chance of finding out about the abuse should be exempted whereas you are not exempted and I am not exempted?

SENATOR LABEDZ: There must be legitimate reasons why they couldn't be. A priest in confessional should not be forced and your amendment or the bill itself says "shall". He will report it if he thinks it is necessary.

SENATOR MARSH: It is interesting because that has been the identical language since 1973 and no clergyman and no priest, no bishop has had a problem with the child abuse or the adult abuse since 1973. Why suddenly is this being thrown up as a red herring to drag across in front of the Legislature? Of all persons I respect clergy persons, I respect priests, I respect bishops and the tremendous good they have brought to our world, the leadership which they have exhibited but I have had no priest, no clergy person contact me and ask for this amendment. I've had no physician call me and ask for this amendment. I urge you to vote no on this amendment.

SENATOR CLARK: She was closing on her amendment. All those in favor of the amendment will vote aye, opposed vote nay. A record vote is requested.