

called Father Dawson this morning. Now Father Dawson is the Superintendent of Schools for the Lincoln Diocese and all of southeast Nebraska and I said, "Father Dawson, I have a problem and I have to ask a question and I don't know of who I can ask it of except of you because you are my friend." I said, "Father Dawson, they are trying to destroy the child abuse bill and the elderly abuse bill by saying what is said in a confessional must remain in a confessional. How do you handle this?" And Father Dawson says, "Rex, if a child comes into the confessional and says, 'Father, I'm being abused,' the priest says, 'See me in my office afterwards!'" The child goes to the office that Father Dawson says, "We remove it to the external form. And the child then tells me what the problem is." He said, "Rex, if an elderly came into my confessional and told me they were being abused, he would tell this person, 'come to my office after the confession', they would remove it to the external form, the priest would listen to them and become involved." So, therefore, I say, here is the answer. Here is the answer that I was seeking for. How could a priest be involved in not helping out a child that is being abused or somebody in the elderly? And that is the answer Father Dawson gave me. If anybody should know, he should. That they remove it to the external form and then they can become involved. Now I know that I'm getting into something here that probably John DeCamp, Senator DeCamp or Senator Labeledz is more knowledgeable than I am but I had to stand up here and say that if you remove this and if you exclude attorneys and if you exclude physicians, now they are all covered by the law now, they are immune, you are going to destroy the elderly abuse bill and you are going to destroy the child abuse bill and I don't think it is right to do this. They are protected by the law. If somebody has an answer for what Father Dawson told me, I'll listen and I will check with him and see what he has to say. But I knew there was something that had to be said. Now do I have to go through what we did last year? Do you want me to pass around the pictures of little Bobby to show what happens to a child abused child to get your attention to what we are doing to these bills, what we are doing with this bill?

SENATOR CLARK PRESIDING

SENATOR CLARK: You have one minute left.

SENATOR HABERMAN: I'll pass it around if you want to look at it again. This is what child abuse could do and this is what we are destroying. We are destroying these bills and I don't think we should do this. I think we should accept 335 in its original form, give the protection to the elderly, keep the protection for the child. Thank you, Mr. President.