

keeping the clergy in this amendment. As I mentioned the other day, when there is abuse of a child, either by the husband or the mother, the first person they think of is the clergy, whether they go to the confessional or whether they go visit the clergy. There is no way that they will go there knowing, for any counselling whatsoever, knowing that that clergy by law has to report that to the police. If a child is being abused, one of the parents definitely would go to the police themselves if they wanted the husband or the mother put into jail. No way will they go to their clergy knowing that they will be turned in by that clergy if they do report child abuse. There is many child abuse affairs that were quieted down and completely changed even if there was separation between the two by the clergy because of counselling they received or advice they received by the clergy. If they did not report that to the police according to this amendment and something happened a month or two later, that particular clergyman or woman, would be subject to prosecution. Therefore, I do not approve of the amendment as long as the clergy are involved. Thank you very much.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Vard Johnson.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, you and I have been faced with LB 335 now for several hours of legislative debate conducted off and on over the past week or so and as each minute ticks by the quality of the debate becomes more and more confused. It becomes more and more confused because we have taken existing child abuse statutes and we have tried to marry them to the new concept to protect older people and handicapped people against abuse. It is confused because we still continue to have dialogue as to who should be exempted from reporting requirements and who should be required to report. I personally, as I listen to the debate and I have listened fairly attentively all along, have basically concluded that Senator Landis' amendment is incorrect because it would protect physicians from reporting in the adult abuse area, that Senator Landis' amendment is essentially correct because it would at least restore the child abuse situation to where it presently is, that Senator DeCamp's amendment has some merit because he makes certain that physicians have to report adult abuse but his amendment is without merit because it would exempt out attorneys and clergymen from all kinds of abuse reporting. Incidentally, what does it mean to be exempted out? To be exempted out isn't necessarily a very good thing because as a lawyer, for example, I can have a case where I find out there is an extraordinary amount of child abuse occurring and conclude that my basic duty to that child is to make a report to the child abuse authorities because I want to make certain that child is protected. Now if, in fact,