

March 1, 1982

LB 335

aye, opposed vote nay.

CLERK: Senator Clark voting yes.

SENATOR CLARK: Have you all voted on ceasing debate? Once more, have you all voted? Record the vote.

CLERK: 20 ayes, 12 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SENATOR CLARK: Debate has not ceased. Senator Marsh is next.

SENATOR MARSH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I'd like to clarify an issue. Several persons have said they think that the child abuse legislation is alright. With the adoption of Senator Landis' amendment, the child abuse legislation is set aside and it is alright. The adult abuse section which is still in clarifies the law to some degree. It does exempt the areas of at least lobbyist requested exemption. Without those exemptions I do not believe that LB 335 could be passed this year but since Senator Landis' amendment has been adopted, I believe it is in a form that we can live with it. It is a first step forward with more protection for senior citizens. I believe this is some legislation, it is not all that I had wished for, but I will not vote to indefinitely postpone and I will vote to advance LB 335 in its current form. Please help me do so.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Newell.

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. President and members of the body, I stand before you to urge you not to kill this bill for all the wrong reasons. In my opinion, this is one of the most symbolic of symbolic issues. The issue here is purely symbolism and I think that the issue really revolves around the question of what is right and fair and we haven't discussed that very much because what we have discussed are the more finer points of law. And those finer points are who should we mandate to inform the police and other competent individuals? I'm not all that clearly understood who those competent individuals are about child abuse. And I think that that, not only child abuse but adult abuse, and I think that makes this whole issue probably as symbolic as symbolic can be because we have talked. The argument has centered around physicians, clergy and those two groups are as concerned about child abuse and elderly abuse as any other. They are concerned, and I believe they will, in fact, report. I don't think that the issue here is whether or not we must mandate them to report or not mandate them to report. I think the issue of whether or not they deserve the rights of confidentiality is really kind of a bologna issue because

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