

May 3, 1989

LB 769

SENATOR LINDSAY: Yes, sir. My understanding is under Roe v. Wade basically the Supreme Court denied the unborn child as having personhood and since it's not a person it's not entitled to constitutional rights.

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you, Senator Lindsay. This, of course, is what we're talking about. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Ashford, followed by Senator Smith.

SENATOR ASHFORD: I will try to make this very brief, Mr. Speaker and members. I just want to reiterate why I have a problem with LB 769 and why I supported the Lynch amendments again and probably why I feel Senator Chambers' amendment is appropriate. I think there are many of us of the 12 who voted to kill this bill who feel very much...very personally about the issue of abortion and generally who are opposed to abortion and would like to find ways in our society to...to lessen the need for abortion and to create a society that is more compassionate and create a society that...where we can bring these children into the world in a...into a society which is more compassionate and I think...I'm sure all of the 12 of us who voted to kill the bill support generally this feeling. I think though that the problem doesn't lie with whether or not, as Senator Hefner suggests, whether or not we are opposed or not opposed to abortion. The issue does not suggest...I don't think lies with what Senator Beck was talking about which is as a parent she would like to know whether her children or her child is pregnant and is...plans to have an abortion or doesn't plan to have an abortion. I think all of us, all of us parents would like that opportunity and as parents, hopefully, we can create the kind of family atmosphere that will encourage our daughters to confide in us when these sorts of situations arise. I think the issue though is not...is not whether we're opposed to abortion, it isn't whether we're Catholic or Lutheran or Jewish, or what we are, I think the issue is this bill. And I think with the defeating of the Lynch amendments, in response to Senator Hefner that, you know, this is a simple bill and we ought to pass it along, it isn't a simple bill. It's probably the most complex bill that we're going to be dealing with this year in the Legislature because it crosses all kinds of lines, socioeconomic lines, judicial funding, every education...every sort of line that we draw every day in this Legislature. It is extremely complex. And I think what I have tried to do in my debate is, first of all, center on the constitutionality and I probably