

May 3, 1989

LB 769

Senator Labeledz.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I find it very hard to follow some of the comments that Senator Ashford just made because I can't agree more strongly with the things that you have just said, Senator Ashford. I think that we're being placed in a position on this floor with a bill that is a bad piece of legislation and I...personally, I guess I am very angry about that fact. I am opposed to abortion. But I'm telling you that I am not as experienced as many of you in here, I am definitely not an attorney and you all know, especially the attorneys in here, know that we're passing on this floor a piece of legislation that is absolutely unworkable, that is going to create all kinds of problems for someone else who, herself, is just a child. When we say that this girl, and we know it's a girl, is a minor, what is a minor if it's not a child? It's a child having a child we're talking about here, not another adult like you and I are who have lived our life, who know how to access and facilitate, they don't even know what those words mean. I have a couple of questions I would like to ask Senator Labeledz.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Yes. Yes.

SENATOR SMITH: Senator Labeledz, in this regards his amendment, I would like to have you explain to me what you think the word "declares" means, where it says the pregnant woman "declares" that she is a victim. What does declare mean to you?

SENATOR LABEDZ: She declares that she is the victim of abuse.

SENATOR SMITH: What does declare mean to you?

SENATOR LABEDZ: She says.

SENATOR SMITH: She says, that's all it takes. This little girl says, I was a victim. Is that what you mean?

SENATOR LABEDZ: Yes.

SENATOR SMITH: It's that simple?

SENATOR LABEDZ: Yes.

SENATOR SMITH: Okay.