

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you.

SENATOR BECK: You're welcome.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Now you see the kind of people that we have on this floor pretending to be moral, refusing to answer a direct question. She was vaunting her goodness by saying she wouldn't beat the child, but knowing there are families that will, she cannot answer that question. She is stunned into moral silence because to answer the question honestly as an honest person she must, if she answers at all, she would have to be in opposition to this bill. So she refuses to answer the question, which is her prerogative. But sometimes a nonanswer speaks more eloquently than any words that are uttered. Senator Labeledz had asked me how I would feel if she stood on the floor and talked about black people for however many minutes in the way I have talked about the church. First of all, a person is a Catholic by choice. If I were lambasting you, Senator Labeledz, because you're Polish or because you're a woman, you would have a parallel. But when I talk about the doctrines of a monolithic church, it's entirely a different matter. And there is no individual among the black race or any other one that I know who is deemed to be infallible as the leader of your church is deemed to be infallible in matters of faith and morals. So the two situations are entirely different.

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And when a church's position becomes the basis for legislation, then it needs to be dealt with in that fashion. But, in the same way, and I hope Senator Beck will consider this, and others, the contentiousness, the divisiveness that has been created on this floor while we're just talking about the issue should let us know what we're dealing with. But, despite seeing the object lessons in our own conduct here, we want to put on moral blinders and pretend that this same kind of reality would not be awaiting a young girl who is in this unfortunate situation. There are women who have to live the kind of life that we're talking about and I think they're entitled to something better from this Legislature than this 769. So you will remember what my amendment does, it simply takes away the requirement that any authorities be notified if the young woman tells the doctor that she has been the victim of one of these items that would nullify the requirement that notification be given to her parents.