

years. He feels that an atrocious piece of legislation like this, nevertheless, can somewhat be made less atrocious. To his credit, I have to say that the step he is taking is in that direction, were such a goal possible of achievement. But it's not. I'm offering the amendment and it conflicts with something I had said earlier that my position would be on this bill, that I would not offer anything to improve it or to bring sense out of it. But it has been before us, it is being discussed and it was difficult for me, in view of seeing what Senator Lindsay is trying to do, to sit back and not at least offer this amendment. So what it would do in the Lindsay amendment, instead of saying, "any person" it says "any physician or attending physician". Then we have the bill focused in the penalty section as it is in the rest of the bill on making a doctor's exercise of his or her discretion as difficult and unreasonable as possible. It's a situation where we're saying that in order for a doctor to exercise his or her judgment that is done under pain of possibly becoming a criminal, not for the act that is performed. The Legislature cannot make the performance of an abortion by a physician illegal. So it can attempt to make it as difficult as possible for a person seeking the abortion to obtain one, can make it as onerous and difficult as possible for a physician to perform one. When we mix the criminal law with legal medical procedures then it is clear what it is the Legislature is doing. There is no concern, as some of us have repeated over and over, for the welfare or interests of the woman involved.

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: There is no concern with maintaining families. There is concern only with cracking the whip because the whip is in the Legislature's hands and available to be cracked. Senator Nelson handed out an article that points out a ruling on an abortion consent law. We're not dealing with consent here, we're dealing with notification but it does show the length that Legislatures will go to to kowtow to a small, noisy special interest group. But what that small, noisy group has demonstrated is how political action is obtained in this society. And I say again, while speaking to an amendment which Senator Lindsay has agreed to accept, those who say they are pro-life...pro-choice, meaning that they believe in the right of a woman to choose whether or not she will have an abortion without interference from the state...

PRESIDENT: Time.