

down here. And one of my constituents asked, regardless of where they are on the side of this issue, was, are you guys going to blow the whole session arguing about this issue? I said, I hope not because I don't think that government bodies can solve issues where there isn't any compromise. And it seems to me that that's what we're seeing here. There isn't any middle ground. The two sides have drawn their lines and they've said, this is the way it's going to be, and I'm going to have my way, and I'm not going to move. And there isn't any coming to the middle. We all know in here that the only way a legislative body can function is when you can come to the middle. Nobody can have his or her own way 100 percent of the time, and yet that seems to be where the procedural maneuverings are going on here are because neither side will give. And I suspect that even if we got to the point of negotiating on some of the points that Senator Bernard-Stevens says he wants to negotiate on, that there just isn't that room. This is an issue that if you look at the polls it splits people. Nobody likes abortion, and yet nobody likes governmental intervention. And so it's not a thing that I think is within the power of a legislative body to solve. And then given the uncertainty of what court decisions are going to be out there, the fact that we have language on the books that is very similar to what Senator Labeledz's bill now carries, here we are taking hours of a 60-day session to battle about an issue that we aren't going to resolve. In the meantime we haven't done one thing to make one child's life in this state better. We haven't done one thing in these hours of debate, both last year and this year, to prevent any single unwanted pregnancy in the state. And I question whether government can do that anyway, they certainly shouldn't try probably. The measures they would take would be very limited. So in some ways I think we're falling into the old trap of big government, assuming that government can do wonderful things and can reach beyond its grasp. I don't think...we can't resolve this issue no matter what we do. I'd like to have rain right now in western Nebraska. If I thought it would do any good, I'd throw in a bill. It would be a lot less controversial, you'd probably all vote for it, but it wouldn't do anything. So I guess we're trying to do something that is beyond the power of a legislative body here. We're going to spend hours on procedural battles. It's going to...it concerns me the kind of animosity that is obviously stirring here in the body, and good people on both sides of the issue are looking at each other with daggers in their eyes. It doesn't do anything to get us toward some of the other things that we need to do. I'll bet you if you took that