

SENATOR ASHFORD: The judicial bypass...and I mentioned this the other day, during the period for which statistics have been compiled, 3,573 bypass petitions were filed in Minnesota courts. Six petitions were withdrawn before decision, nine petitions were denied and 3,558 were granted. So why was this delay? Why did we go through this week's delay which could be dangerous and have significant risk? I don't know. I don't know. The testimony of the judges that testified before the court is really interesting. Judge Neil Riley testified that he saw no beneficial effects of the statute and further that he sympathized with the predicament the minors were in. Judge William Sweeney: What I have come to believe is that really the judicial function is merely a rubber stamp. The decision has already been made before they have gotten to my chambers. And this is the critical quote, the young women I have seen have been very mature and capable of giving the required consent.

PRESIDENT: Time. Senator Labeledz, please.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. President. Now we have Senator Ashford, Senator Bernard-Stevens and Senator Landis and Senator Chambers that are far more intelligent than the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals. They keep talking about this bill having to be amended. Evidently, they don't remember or don't want to talk about it but the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals, which also handles the Nebraska cases, have said, my bill is patterned...they haven't said that, my bill is patterned after the Minnesota law and theirs was declared constitutional. Senator Chambers mentioned the fact that at one of the committee hearings I was crying on Franklin Credit Union. Yes, I was, and I cried ever since the day I became on that committee. For instance, I sat a week before Christmas with two meetings when a grandmother should be home preparing for Christmas, but I was down here. I have never missed a meeting. Last night, at five o'clock, we had another meeting. It lasted four hours on this floor and in committee hearing and then a four-hour meeting till nine o'clock. I cried again, Senator Chambers, and I'm still crying. I cried for the black children, I cried for the white children, but at least I had the guts enough to stay on the committee regardless of the frictions that were caused and I'm still fighting for those children. I didn't resign, you did. Senator Landis and Senator Ashford, and I just recalled the other day Senator Ashford stood up here and said, this is the last time I'm going to talk on the bill. He has told me that personally. Evidently, he has changed his mind. But I am truly