

March 30, 1990

LB 688, 854

and I don't see him anywhere, and I don't see Senator Kristensen. I know that he could answer me very honestly also. The first page, section 4, that the Supreme Court would have to put the abortion matter ahead of all others. How many cases are behind in the Supreme Court? About two years. I suppose a baby could be walking or maybe riding a tricycle by that time. That's the things that's in this bill that makes it impossible for us that are trying to speak for the rights of some of the minority. I look at this as such a class issue, but beside the point, to me, and I've said it before, we're doing nothing but making a mockery of the Legislature. I'm proud to serve in the Legislature, but if this continues much longer, I think I was here to represent all interests from judiciary to education to underground water, the low-level radioactive waste, a very, very important issue, hundreds of issues. That's what my constituents look at. They don't look at this abortion issue. We are criticized, we are made absolute fools of by instances such as this. I asked Senator Lindsay in Judiciary, when we passed LB 854 out I said, how long are we going to spend on that issue, two hours, two days or two weeks? Doesn't make a bit of difference. It's just as important as the funding of the University of Nebraska. We all have our own priorities I guess, and that's our privilege and that's the democratic system. but when all of the legislation that we need to act upon probably will go by the wayside by this one particular issue, I'm ashamed to serve in the body if that's what is going to happen. I point to you an article a few days ago in the World-Herald, state abortion fights dwindle as senators avoid it in droves. Why does Nebraska need to be different? Just, as it goes on, one state after another, 150 bills introduced and a mere, I don't know, 10 or so maybe have been adopted or maybe not even that much. In Oklahoma legislators rejected 10 abortion bills in a single day leaving one bill that isn't expected to pass. Missouri, 11 bills introduced. None is expected to pass. Nine introduced in New York, all are expected to die. In Iowa, three bills, on and on and on and why are we talking about something that may be overturned or it may or may not be by the courts this summer. People, we are making absolutely...the public looks upon this as one of the most ridiculous things that we could possibly do and in a short session with so many, many needed and people wanting and hurting out there, needed legislation and we're not going to gain anything,...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

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