

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: And I would like to go back to just for the record, remind people of, one, I think the underlying dilemma. This is not an abortion vote, my friends. Pro-life will tell you this is a litmus test. God knows how many tests we have had on that. They have got to be running out of litmus paper. Pro-choice would tell you this is their litmus test, and either you are going to be a red or a blue, and they have already done those tests. This is not an abortion fight. This is a childish fight so that one side or the other can say, see, we did something. We got more votes, we had more votes in the Legislature on that issue, we forced it through, we got it, we did something. And do you know what? Even if we would decide to do something, the victory would be hollow on either side. One side would say, yeah, but the Legislature was controlled by a group of zealots on one side or another, it is not representative of Nebraska.

PRESIDENT: Time.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: And another side would say that Nebraskans don't understand what they are, it is simply foolishness of the body, and we still lose. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Chambers, please, followed by Senator Hall, Senator Schimek, and Senator Nelson. Senator Chambers, please.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman, and members of the Legislature, this is an issue which I am pleased now is before us because it is going to confirm and spotlight something that I've touched on during this session, that the Catholic Church is the force recognized throughout this country as the main driving engine behind these antiabortion bills. I read you articles where bishops are counseling their other fellow bishops, hey, don't try to dictate to these politicians. There is a reality with which the Catholic Church must live, and that is that we are tax exempt right now, do you realize how much property we have got of every shape and variety? Do you realize how much gambling we do on that property? And although it might change if we don't have any abortions, non-Catholics still are a majority in this country. There are groups right now which are openly anti-Catholic because they just don't like the idea of the Pope