

way, the effect of parental consent is to single out unmarried, minor women whose sexual activity results in pregnancy and subjects them to burden and often traumatic requirements. Such requirements are not imposed upon a young boy or a young, unmarried boy whose sexual activities actually contribute to the pregnancy. By telling a young woman that she may not decide in whom she will confide, or that abortion is hers not to make alone, reinforces the problem that we have and that we're forcing on the minors today. This...what troubles me in all of this debate, and I have yet had a proponent of the bill to stand up and when most of us have a bill here we give the good points of the bill, or the pros and cons, and actually debate the bill on the merit of the bill. In this particular bill, seems to be sailing through, or so on, and it is not a Catholic issue, there are other religious bodies involved, just as strong, feel just as strong, and that's their pleasure, the same as my church may or may not. My church, incidentally, takes very much of a pro-choice stand because of the fact of the lack of education, the welfare issue and so on. If the Parental Notification Act was just a Parental Notification Act, probably would be no problem if, as I say, if we lived in a...in a perfect world. But this bill is far beyond that. I don't know as a parental notification as we have on the books is even necessary to give informed consent or for abortion services. That...most of them, the parents are for...or the teenagers are already informed or they know what they want to do. Subjecting that teenager to the court procedure has to be so frightening. Teenagers don't recognize maybe as early as women older in life, their menstrual cycle is maybe not established and so on, they really don't even know for sure if they are pregnant or they aren't until maybe the 10th, 12th, 13th week. Abortion still is safer at that time than child birth is. And I don't know, we seem to forget that point. We seem to be that if we force it onto that child, disregard whether the child will be born deformed or a premature baby or so on...

SPEAKER BARRETT PRESIDING

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR NELSON: ...just the fact that, we as legislators, were able to choose and to say to that woman, we know better than you know. Minors are competent and most...I think most minors, if it's a functional family at all, the parents would be the first ones that they would discuss this with, maybe their peers a