

to have an abortion is a strictly private decision which the government should not regulate in one way or another, 21.6 percent of Nebraskans agreed strongly that this is a private decision which the government should not regulate. Today that number is up to 24.6 percent, and I say this as of 1988. That is the most recent publication by the Nebraska Annual Social Indicator Survey, and it was released November 15, 1989. The number who agree, not strongly but agree, is 41.6 or 7 percent, rather. Together, those who agree or strongly agree total 66.3 percent of Nebraskans who say that abortion is a strictly private decision which the government should not regulate in one way or another. The number who are neutral on this topic has grown recently. It was 4.9 percent in 1982, it was 8.4 percent in 1988. The number who disagree with this position has gone down slightly, at least in the disagree category; 17.1 percent disagreed in 1982, 16 percent disagree in 1988. Now, the number who strongly disagree has gone up slightly. In 1982, 7.2 percent strongly disagreed, today that number is 9.3 percent who strongly disagree. Well, the normal, general response over this six year hiatus, between the two surveys, seems to establish a general notion that the majority of Nebraskans believe abortion is a private decision, one which the government should not regulate in one way or another. Perhaps there are big variations by areas of the state, or by political parties, or by religions that would explain the difference in our attitudes today on the floor. Actually, there is very little to tell us that there is a distinction here between one party or the other. It's true that there are fewer Republicans who strongly agree than there are Democrats, but the number isn't that much different; 19 percent of strong Republicans, 25 percent of strong Democrats. Of the strong Republicans, 37 percent agree with that statement, 44 percent of the Democrats do. In other words, in both of the political parties there is a majority support for the statement of principle that abortion is strictly a private decision which government should not regulate in one way or another. What about people who voted in elections? Well, people who voted in the last election, this being 1988, the number who strongly agree with that role is higher than the number, generally, of all the rest of the population. The rest of the population has a profile of 24.6 percent who strongly agree with the statement, but from among those who voted in the last election the number was 26 percent. The number who strongly agreed was much the same at 41 percent. The number who strongly disagreed is slightly higher than the norm, and that is...no, I'm sorry, the