

about which Senator Chambers is concerned...

SPEAKER BARRETT: Time.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ...in too grave a danger. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Morrissey.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members, trying to understand some of the arguments and some of the religious issues that have been thrown at me on this subject, I did a lot of reading. And one of the things that you all received was from the Park Ridge Center in Chicago. It has a very good question and answer section on religious issues addressing abortion. It asks, why is it important to watch out for religious dimensions to the claims and appeals of these advocates of the various positions? The answer to that, because the advocates themselves do. It's politically dangerous not to. You have to hear the religious questions. These dimensions are hard to understand and it is difficult to do them justice if you do not listen carefully to the arguments. Why can't we simply vote and settle the whole question? Because politics is a compromise or it's supposed to be a compromise and on this kind of issue some people will be uncompromising, yet no one is going to win everything and some people are going to lose much. Votes will not settle issues of conscience or religious faith. The abortion issue can never be settled by voting. It can only be regulated. All sides have agreed on that. What is the religious issue? What is a religious issue? Religion represents the deepest most durable beliefs about reality, about God and the sacred, universe, human nature, life, suffering and death that people can hold. Nonreligious people hold deep and durable beliefs, too, but the convictions of people of faith are distinctive in their nature and their source. They are shaped by belief in the sacred and have their origins in various forms of self-disclosure of the sacred, that being human hearts and minds or in and through history and experience or nature or scripture. Because of their divine origin, they are held to be true. An issue is said to be religious then when religious convictions are integrally associated with it, at least from the perspective of those who believe. Are religious issues really religious issues? Some people can use religion in various ways and for a variety of purposes, to fire up the emotions, gain authority, affirm their beliefs, build loyalties. We tend to be suspicious of religious appeals in politics but it will be very