

April 3, 1990

horrendously bad so-called antidrug bill that certainly ought not be advanced in this fashion, in my opinion, and I will fight that bill wherever it lights and there is an opportunity to fight it. I don't deny that and I don't hide it. And another thing, and, Senator Schmit, this is where you and I are going to be just alike and we have been in the past. I am going to stand and declare myself. You won't have to speculate about where I am. I know where Senator Schmit is on the abortion question. I know where others are but some are trying to play both sides of the street. Some are trying to straddle the fence for whatever reason. They ought to just declare that the issue is too hot for them to take their position and hold it, but this thing of playing the game that, hey, I am for this bill but I am not for the way you are doing it, or I am against this bill but I am for what you are trying to do to be fair, nonsense. Senator Schmit, you are going to hear that comment you used before about the starch, and I want to get it right, if you took all the starch out of their backbone, you wouldn't have enough to stiffen a shirt collar. More or less correct, that is the way it went? Right. And that is the way some people are on this issue. That is the way it is. But there will come another time when they will speak great swelling words of how they stood firm, but if you check the vote, you will see that is not the case at all. It is a matter of principle with me and I have stated it. That is why the other day I would not agree to anything called a compromise because it was not a compromise. And somebody misstated me, I forget where I read it, that I said I am willing to compromise on this issue, I didn't say that. And if my conduct can be taken to be the kind of conduct of a person engaged in a compromise, then I will agree, yes, I have been compromising on this bill. But the fact is it is almost an unmentionable, even though it is the subject, that has directed this session and it is going to continue to do so, and that is why I offered that priority motion which was to reconsider. The issue has been discussed. It has been debated, and it will continue to be debated until this session ends. After the session, there is a possibility that Congress may enact some legislation because there are some House members who have offered a bill that would protect a woman's right to have an abortion in disregard of what the Supreme Court may say. So there are other battlefields where things could be done that would nullify anything this Legislature does anyway. But at this juncture, people are trying to make statements and trying to make points of one kind or another. I am going to make mine. I expect you to make yours. If you want the right to make

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