

one of those amendable concepts when we get right down to the issue itself. There can be amendments offered to a bill that is going to restrict a woman's abortion to see how you are going to effectuate that, but amendments can be offered in that setting which represent no compromise of the principle. The principle is compromised when a vote is cast that supports a bill that will restrict a woman's right to an abortion, that will burden her decision, that will make it difficult for her to carry out that decision once she makes it. It is like saying, after you have gone through whatever agony is necessary to reach that point, the Legislature wants to put in place a law that compels you to reconsider in a manner of speaking, and I think that is very, very cruel, and I think it is unjust. I believe this bill is going to generate additional discussion today. I believe that other bills are going to be discussed because of LB 854, and that is as it should be. The bill should not be here on Select File. The bill should not pass. If those who say they have principle had stood firm, we wouldn't be faced by what we are faced with this morning. Strength of character, strength of resolve are commodities in short supply in this society. On the floor of the Legislature, in the arena where people are campaigning for office, you will see principles shaved off in order to gain some political advantage. Yet, on other occasions when we are confronted by the syndrome that I call the "Schmit syndrome," that what is being discussed doesn't help anybody, doesn't hurt anything, doesn't cost anything, doesn't do anything, then you see us running forth and, Senator Schmit, at that point we have got backbones like iron. We won't back up an inch because it doesn't do anything, it doesn't cost anything, doesn't help anybody, doesn't hurt anybody. There we are. But on these serious matters, I know the difficulty that a person can face. That is why it takes strength to stand. In those situations where there is no controversy, doesn't matter one way or the other what you do, but we are at the line. My side is standing is on this side of the line, and, Senator Schmit, at this time, I will speak only for me as being on my side. Then I don't have to be concerned with saying I am relying on somebody to my right hand to do one thing, somebody to my left hand to do something else, and I wind up when the battle is raging seeing that I am not only alone but my right hand and my left hand are on the other side firing fusillades at me. This goes really beyond the issue of abortion. It goes to a consideration of how we will address the problems of women. I say, again, that women are put down in this society. Women's interests and concerns, for those who don't know what happened, Senator Labeledz showed me