

impact of abortion on women and write a report to the public. In January, 1989, Dr. Koop wrote Reagan that it was impossible to reach clear judgments on the subject because the scientific evidence was inconclusive. But the Weese Subcommittee said that transcripts of 27 confidential meetings between Dr. Koop and pro-choice and anti-abortion advocates subpoenaed by the Subcommittee showed that Dr. Koop had stated on several occasions that legal abortion was safer than pregnancy and childbirth and poses no public health risks to women's mental or physical health. Further, the Subcommittee said, Dr. Koop reviewed research on the medical impact of abortion that confirmed its safety in a draft report which was never issued, concluded that 'abortion does not pose a physical risk to the mother'." And I will complete it later but there was a reason that I wanted that read. Whenever a subject becomes so all-consuming that it will cause a person to forget what he or she learned through formal education, through scientific training, through scientific living in order that these things can be subjugated to an opinion which is not supported by the facts. Dr. Koop was intellectually dishonest. Other people may genuinely believe what he said he believed. They are not dishonest, they are uninformed, they are misinformed. Those with information and knowledge have an obligation if they speak at all to speak the truth. C. Everett Koop did not have the luxury of an ordinary citizen to simply remain silent. Based on the job he accepted, the responsibilities that go along with being the Surgeon General of the United States impose on him an obligation to present this information honestly and directly. Remember this, the comments about the safety of abortion, as opposed to the dangers of pregnancy and childbirth were admitted by Dr. Koop, himself, to those who are pro-abortion, those who are opposed to abortion. But when he made public comments he did not tell the truth. What could lead a man to say that he holds a position because of a moral principle? What could cause such a man...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...to commit the immoral act of lying which would be designed to mislead the public? The Surgeon General is concerned about the health of the citizens. Even if the facts arrive at a conclusion that he disagrees with, his obligation is to tell the truth. Even this guy, William Bennett, who is addicted to nicotine to such an extent that several attempts to have professional help to get over the habit has not allowed him