

around and say it all boiled down to religious convictions, and that may be so for some of us, but I think it also is an issue of morals. I think that in this democracy, our whole basis for democracy was founded on a moral issue. We came to this country, our forefathers, to provide freedoms, provide morality, and I think that is what we are doing. I can't support this amendment. I think that all it does is mask, and I hope that you won't support it also. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Dierks. Next speaker, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I hope Senator Dierks won't become angry because I want to ask him a couple of questions and I know how deeply he feels this. But when we're on the floor of the Legislature, we have to engage in discussion back and forth regardless of how we may personally feel. Before I want to ask him the questions, I should point out that some of those forefathers that he spoke of didn't come here to...strictly for freedom. They did want to be free to impose their views on other people and punish them if they didn't believe the same way. The Pilgrims and other, Puritans, were notorious for their intolerance and Governor Bradford, Massachusetts Colony, said that the greatest problem he had among the Pilgrims, the greatest problems, were adultery, sodomy, incest and drunkenness. That is written by Governor Bradford about the Pilgrims. The greatest problems, doing those things that are unseemly, members of families, so when we hear this stuff about all the morality that existed in the early days, that is the mythification of American history which needs to be corrected, because at this late date in our lives and in the life of this country, there still is the notion that there was saints running around here when in reality they were not. But here is the question that I would like to ask Senator Dierks. Senator Dierks, you said life begins at conception in your opinion, if I understood you correctly.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Dierks.

SENATOR DIERKS: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: All right. Does conception occur when the sperm from the man unites with the egg of the woman and fertilization occurs?