

September 28, 1992 LB 20

SENATOR MOORE: You put such a cold edge on it, I didn't believe I said it quite like that, but maybe I did.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yeah, it sounds different when it comes back to you than when it comes out of you. But here's the thing I'm getting to, what becomes of those developing youngsters needing prenatal care who don't get it while we're waiting for the economy to reach a level where Senator Moore and others can support this care? We lose them, not to abortion, but we lose these children, whom I think all of us would agree could benefit from assistance. But we're willing to let them go by the board. And I think that is a tragic set of circumstances. But I guess that's the price you pay when you take the role that Senator Moore took when he became Chairperson of the Appropriations Committee. He knew he would have to do these kind of things. But I feel differently in terms of the requirements I place on myself. An organization like the Legislature could not impose on me the requirement that I do things such as that. If it's not appropriate and moral, whatever that term moral means to each individual, for me to do this before I got in the Legislature, how does coming into the Legislature cloak me with some kind of immunity so that I no longer am responsible, personally, for what I do? Now I am away from Senator Moore, because I don't want him misunderstood. I don't compare his position with what I'm about to talk about now. But that defense of it being an act of the state, that I was ordered by the state to do this, therefore I'm innocent, is the defense always given at war crimes and similar trials. On a far lesser basis the same argument is given by public officials, this is not desirable, this is not morally good, but it must be done. Then we want to tell the children, that which you are interested in, that which will give you pleasure is not desirable, it's not morally good, just say no, don't do what you want to do. But with far less in the way of things that unbalance our mind and our ability to reason, these children are often under great emotional duress. Their feelings and their hormones are running rampant, so they're temporarily unbalanced. Ours does not come from that type of imbalance or unbalance, ours come from the feeling that this thing over here is so important that we no longer have to take personal responsibility for what we do.

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: This amendment does not make this bill a good