

September 29, 1992 LB 20

SENATOR WARNER: One minute.

SENATOR CROSBY: ...when we need something. And so I'm going to continue to speak against this bill and try to help make it a little more palatable, if we can. It's...have to take it with a spoon full of sugar, I guess, but I'm not going to like it. Thank you.

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I haven't spoken on this issue yet today or yesterday and don't intend to try to prolong the debate on this issue. But I think this is an important amendment. And you might also say that Rush Limbaugh made me do this. I couldn't bear to let Senator Crosby be accused of being the only liberal, feminist, pro-choice, Clinton supporter in this body. I just had to get up and say something. Senator Chambers mentioned, earlier in the discussion, about the...that some of us were blindly following the lead...the leader of our party. And those weren't his exact words, but I think that was the intent. And I have to say to you that when first interviewed by the Lincoln Journal, that I said I probably would support the Governor's proposal. The more I thought about it in the context of all of the budget cuts that were being offered, the more that I decided that I probably couldn't support the proposal. You know if somebody had told me, yes, we're going to raise the income taxes on the very rich, or if somebody had told me, yes, we're going to tax the corporate jets and, yes, everybody is going to bear the pain, then I probably would have gone ahead and supported the Governor's proposal. But it seemed to me, upon reflection, that we were, as Senator Crosby mentioned, picking on those on the lowest rung of the ladder. I did mention to Senator Wesely at some point that I thought maybe we should look at a compromise, maybe we should look at what some of the other states were doing. And several of those states...in several of those states they do have the three month provision for the last trimester. And I was pleased that he introduced that bill in Health Committee. Anybody who's been pregnant and who's been a mother knows that there are expenses that go with a pregnancy and with the birth of a child far beyond the medical and health expenses, and I would suggest particularly in that last three months. We're talking about clothes for the mother, we're talking...when she might have been able to get along the first six months with