

February 22, 1996 LB 645

Abboud, who is terrified of the federal government, and his very competent staff who brought to his attention that the federal government told him Senator Abboud, if you do this you're in trouble, I'm trying to take them both off the hot seat. So here is what the language would do that I'm offering. It would allow Senator Abboud to crawl to the federal government and say, master, I have done what you ordered. I left in the bill kidnapping and false arrest. But my mind, trained in the law, tells me that unless offense, an offense has a sexual element to it, it should not be used as a basis to label somebody a dangerous sexual offender. So in order to put Senator Abboud in that position here's what I'm offering. The language which will allow kidnapping to stay in the bill, it will allow false arrest to stay in the bill, but it will add the language that these offenses must be committed with a sexual intent or purpose, with a sexual intent or purpose. Kidnapping can be committed with no sexual overtone, undertone, or involvement whatsoever. The same with false imprisonment. I think my amendment is eminently fair, it will take care of the difficulty that I have with leaving this language in the bill. I doubt that ever Senator Witek, who favors this bill, would say that a nonsexual offense should be a basis for labeling somebody a sexual offender. To do that would be similar to saying that if a person put a gun on an individual and took his or her money, that makes that person guilty of embezzlement. Crazy. That would not be done with reference to any other subject. Too often, when there is a political wind blowing through the country, and that wind at this time is dealing with sexual offenses, irrational things are done. I find it peculiar that with all the talk of religion that those who are the most deeply religious seem to be the most obsessed with sexual matters. I don't have any religion. I'm not obsessed with the idea of sex. I'm not concerned and disturbed that in school children are taught how we come here, how we are brought into the world, what happens between a man and a woman that produces a child. I'm not opposed to children knowing that. They ought to know it. It would put them in a better position to avoid falling into the clutches of these terrible adults who will take sexual advantage of children. But to draft the kind of legislation which is before us and allow it to go into law simply because the federal government said, you are a jackass and you must certify that you're a jackass by passing this law. I speak English. When I want to get somebody's attention, I don't say hee haw, hee haw. Senator Lindsay said, oh, now he understands. (Laughs) I've just been