

February 22, 1996 LB 645

They're going farther and telling you, you must pass a law that is asinine; you must pass that law, and probably a majority of the senators here will vote to pass it. I'm well aware of that. And that's why I'm prepared to dig my heels in, and Senator Witek can be upset and I'm glad she's upset. It shows she's paying attention even though she doesn't understand. She must pay attention before there's a possibility of understanding coming. If there's very hard ground and I want to plant something, I may have to get a jackhammer to break up that hard crust before I can manipulate it to the point where it is soil from which something can be...

SPEAKER WITHEM: Time. Senator Witek.

SENATOR WITEK: Senator...oh, I'm sorry. I thought you'd asked a question and it's my turn to speak.

SPEAKER WITHEM: It is your turn to speak. You are recognized for five minutes.

SENATOR WITEK: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, first of all, these people are not innocent, Senator Chambers, they are criminals who are incarcerated in our prisons. And, yes, I understand that you have more time, twenty-five years on the floor this year, than I do concerning these issues. But I have been very involved in this issue for two years. I have read the language, I have talked to the people who are involved in it, I have talked to the psychiatrists, I have talked to the parents, I have talked to the victims, I have talked to everyone involved in this, I've talked to people across the state of Nebraska about this bill. They want 645. They don't want it weakened with amendments like yours, and they want 645. And if I could get some of the women's groups in here who have been trying to hammer for I don't know how many years, at least since I was in college and I...it was in my memory, that rape is not a sexual crime. It is not sexual purpose, it is not sexual intent, in their opinion it is a power crime, a violent crime to show that they have power over their victim. Just because they might hurt or harm an individual in the area of their body that reproduces, it does not mean it is a sexual crime. You know, that's why I say if you're going to put something like this language in here about sexual intent or purpose, it's not done in our rape statutes, it's not done in many of our statutes, it's already some language. If you look under the statute that you're