

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

January 12, 2000 LB 480

deal with a lot of issues that relate to women and their denigration. A lot of that work is done with reference to the judicial system and the legal profession. District Judge Hartigan, in Omaha, in chambers, said to a female lawyer, using the "F-word", "F you". I handed out to you-all a complaint I filed against former Judge Bryce Bartu to get him disbarred, and I listed and gave summaries of 11 cases of individual women. He did things like grabbing the breasts of a sheriff's dispatcher when she was 8 months pregnant and only 19 years old. With his court reporter he would run his hand up her leg all the way to her crotch in his office. He would visit the homes of women who had cases before him and he had a fixation on women's buttocks, because that's where he was always drawn. The Judicial Qualifications Commission knew about it. The former Chief Justice knew about it and acknowledged that some of the allegations against him rose to the level of criminal sexual assault and they did nothing. And I have to listen to people on this floor nitpick about a few dollars and suggest that women are not in a position where they need to be recognized in terms of the problems they face and that we, as legislators, ought not do anything about it to correct that problem. And you can see the lack of interest on this floor. When we were talking about cigarettes, there were other people on this floor. Then they're gone now because they got what they wanted. And the very lack of interest shown here is a concrete example of the lack of regard shown to women and the problems they face and that's why I have to do the work of the Bar Association and the Judicial Qualifications Commission. These judges think that a license to practice law is a license to hunt vulnerable females. And who's going to do anything about it? I will. You all don't. That's why you don't take it seriously. There is the denial and the turning away. When Mother's Day comes, people will send a little card if their mother is still here. They go through this pretense that they care and that women mean something. Some people even worship a woman they call the Mother of God, but all that is so much poof, poof, piffle. When we come down to the reality of flesh and blood women in this world, then an entirely different face is shown. The nitpicking and concern about a gigantic state agency, Senator Tyson knows that if this bill were enacted it's not going to harm anything that Health and Human Services is supposed to do or that it is doing. I'm going to allow others to argue the merits of the bill itself. I don't