

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

March 14, 2000 LB 1217

pregnancies to term. They wanted to. The help they needed--prenatal care so that when a child is born there's a chance for the child to make it to full term, to be healthy, and for the mother to be healthy, and this Legislature refused to fund those programs. And, Senator Crosby, I did mention the prior administration, too, and I mentioned Ben Nelson by name on some things. But ultimately it is the Legislature which does not do what it ought to do. I don't know why in the areas these senators come from where there is so much pro-life, as it's called, agitation, those people care less to see that a senator supported children's programs. When I say "children" those that are here. Why can't those make headlines out there and get you elected? Why won't priests give sermons supportive of senators who support programs like that? Why won't priests give sermons condemning the senators who vote against programs like that, as they do on this other when we're talking about zygotes, fetuses and embryos? They won't do it. That's why I say a lot of that is insincere and it's propaganda. It's a knee-jerk reaction. They told me to be against this so I'll be against it. But it seems to me that nobody should have to tell us to do things to help the children who are here. Even if we've had no children of our own, we were all children at one time. Before I ever had a child of my own I was in the schools protecting children who were subjected to corporal punishment, and I have to admit and I'm not embarrassed about it, I put my hands on teachers who put their hands on children and my rationale was that there's less disparity and size between me and the teacher than there was between the teacher and the child and I wanted the teacher to do the same thing to me, a grown man, that the teacher was so willing to do to the child. I went to schools and I took...I confiscated paddles used against children, and I let the children see me go in the schools and take these paddles and let them know that there was somebody they could turn to. In the barbershop where I worked, on more than one occasion a child would come to that shop bloody, a black eye given by a teacher. One boy ran here about six blocks. His t-shirt was torn, there was blood that had come out of his nose and his mouth onto his shirt and it partly congealed because it was cold. Snow on the ground; he ran to me from a school. And it is very difficult for me not to get incensed when I see how unwilling we are to do things to help these children, but I don't always bring it up because I'm not going to hold my wounds out in front of this