

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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I want to read to you what I thought I had to say, so that everybody understood exactly what I had said, because I got a call from Kim Robak the next day, too, complimenting me on my comments. And I said, well, Kim, before you compliment me, let me tell you exactly what I said. When I got done talking, she didn't say she wanted to further her complimentary remarks. So therefore, I'd like to read this to you, if I have time. To President Dennis Smith, and I "cced" it to all of the regents and to the Governor. I heard back from one regent, I did not hear back from my own, Chuck Hassebrook, of Walthill. But, dear President Smith, in light of the recent Omaha Omaha World-Herald, dated December 2, 1999, in which I was quoted, I felt it necessary to clarify my stance on the University of Nebraska Medical Center's use of fetal tissue for research purposes. The day after the World-Herald printed the initial story on this issue, Mr. Robert Dorr, reporter for the paper, which I just told you that, but he did not fully represent my position on this matter. When I first read the news article concerning UNMC's use of fetal tissue for research, I was admittedly appalled. I could not fathom the possibility that UNMC had been and continues to use aborted fetuses for research purposes. I am additionally disheartened by the fact that university officials kept such practices secret and have given Dr. Leroy Carhart the status of professor. They said they did not keep it secret, but I got a letter from one regent said they were unaware of this practice also. The argument that Dr. Carhart received no payment for the fetuses or that he has no voice in the actual research does not take away the credibility the university has bestowed upon him by naming Dr. Carhart a professor. I expressed to Mr. Dorr that according to distorted law, babies can be aborted because they are not viewed as human beings, yet for research purposes these same fetuses are considered living cells. I further stated that I believe UNMC's practice of using fetal tissue is comparable to the Nazis' exercise of human experimentation during World War II. Like the university, the Nazis justified their experimentation under the guise that it was for the betterment of mankind. As for the secret nature of the research, I wonder why the Board of Regents was unaware of such practices? Is it possible that the board did not want to know because a huge uproar would ensue? I served in the United States Air Force with top secret security and above clearances. What we were