

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

March 21, 2000 LB 1405

doing had to do with national security. On the other hand, what UNMC has done is keep the people in Nebraska in the dark about the reprehensible use of aborted babies for the sake of research. I am an organ donor, but I have also had the lifetime use of my organs. We are talking about the most innocent of the innocent who have been denied the use of their organs, thus I would highly recommend that the use of these fetuses cease and that Dr. Carhart's status as a professor be terminated. I conveyed the same information to Kim Robak when she telephoned me after reading my quote contained in the article. And the only portion quoted, again, was "while I oppose fetal tissue research, the Legislature needs to be careful about cutting NU's funding, because that could harm the university's other research." As such, I thought it was imperative that it be made clear the context of which the above mentioned quotation was made. I realize that research is an important function of UNMC, but it should not...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR ENGEL: ...use morally reprehensible means to further such research. Did you say time?

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: I said one minute.

SENATOR ENGEL: I am glad to see that the Board of Regents added this issue to their upcoming meeting agenda. While they did add it to their agenda, of course, but they did unanimously vote to continue the research. And the thing is, since that...since that time several issues have come up as far as finding other sources of aborted tissues through spontaneous abortions and so forth, and now they've come up with this ethics committee. They're going to try this, try that. Well none of this would have happened if this didn't come to public light. So why didn't they do some of these things prior to that? Why weren't we, as the public, especially in the Legislature, advised of what was going on? This argument would have happened six years ago instead of today in the Legislature. So I do...I think this should come out before the full Legislature. I do hope you'll bring this...vote this bill out of committee so that we can breach this subject, because...