

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

March 21, 2000 LB 1405

people of the state of Nebraska. I don't think that the majority of Nebraskans would agree to that. So whether this bill gets pulled out of committee and then perhaps filibustered, as we've heard, or whether it is unsuccessfully pulled, medical science is going to be increasing in conflict with our contemporary notions of morality and ethics, and something must be done if we are to have a university that can plan and proceed into the future without disconnecting from the people who own it, which are the citizens of the state of Nebraska.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Hilgert. Senator Dierks.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, I consider the University of Nebraska my university. I graduated there myself in 1954, all four of my children have been graduated from the University of Nebraska. The action that they took in December provided a little divorce decree between the University of Nebraska and myself. I find that the whole process was very arrogant. I've written to the President of the university, sent copies to every member of the regents. I finally received an answer from one of the regents. But the thing that was amazing to me is that the entire Board of Regents supported this action unanimously. That does not reflect the feelings across the state of Nebraska. Who are they representing? That does not reflect the feelings of the citizens of this state. It's difficult for me to understand this whole philosophy. They're telling us that for one thing that these neurons are not taken from adult tissue. That was part of their testimony, but that's not true. We have a fact, a study done at the University of Tennessee in Memphis that both neurons and glia were obtained from adult human brains. So where else are there lies or mistruths or misrepresentation in the testimony that they've given us? Lord knows, this is my fourteenth year in this Legislature, and I've been involved with this abortion debate every time it's come up; made priority bills out of a number of those..of those issues, argued the issue with Senator Chambers and Senator Landis. They know exactly how I feel about this. I just...it's...it's just so distasteful to me that this can actually happen at our land grant school. I just can't believe that they're taking tissue from aborted fetuses, from elective aborted fetuses and using