

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

March 28, 2000

LB 1405

human corpses. Burke and Hare were two famous grave robbers in England and they procured corpses for use by individual doctors and medical institutions. There was an expression called burking because Burke would begin to find very fresh corpses by suffocating people. So to be burked meant to be suffocated. There have been times throughout history when scientists did things that were considered illegal and immoral, but even the church approves of dissection of human corpses. So that which during those old days was considered immoral not only now is accepted but the advancements made during that immoral period are utilized today as the foundation for sciences taught in Catholic Universities by Catholic priests, even Jesuits. So if morality is not relative, then what was immoral then is immoral now and it's immoral for Creighton Medical School to allow those students to dissect human corpses because it's an immoral desecration of a human body, but all of that has changed. So it means they had to have made a mistake then. It is not immoral then...now, it was not immoral then because morality is not relative. So if a mistake was made then, a mistake, in my opinion, not only can be made but is being made today with reference to the kind of research we're talking about. It is not an abortion issue. Passage of this bill would not stop abortions and I find it extremely abhorrent and insulting for these idiotic priests and others to say that these young women will go out and get pregnant and have an abortion in order to provide fetal tissue for research. How much can they demean these women? You don't even have people running out to donate blood when they hear that there is a call for it, so if they are not going to run out and donate blood, why do you think these young women and older women are going to get pregnant and have abortions to provide fetal tissue for scientific research? That is the sheer idiocy of what has crept into this whole subject, and it is why that famous Spanish expression ought to come into play; shoemaker to thy last, meaning, you do what a shoemaker does. This body is not competent to resolve this issue because we don't even understand the science. We don't even have a grasp on the moral issues because the church doesn't have a grasp on those moral issues, and there are priests and family members of priests who have benefitted from the drugs and the treatments based on fetal cell research, and the cells were derived from elective abortions. Nothing since I've been in this Legislature has been more outright hypocritical, dishonest,