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May 5, 2003

LB 602

SENATOR SMITH: Will you restate that? I was engaged (inaudible).

SENATOR STUTHMAN: The question that I have is, give me what in your estimation, your interpretation, of what reproductive cloning is. What is the beginning and what is the end result?

SENATOR SMITH: Well, the beginning is when you have... typical is the miosis, the fertilization, you know, becoming the single-cell embryo. Well, the cloning is different. I mean it's basically an artificial means where they... you have the egg cell. They remove the egg nuclear material and then you have a donor cell or an isolate donor nuclear material, and then insert the donor nuclear material through electrical or chemical stimulation. How's that for a technical answer?

SENATOR STUTHMAN: That is a very technical answer to my question. Where is this cell placed then at that time, or where do you put this?

SENATOR SMITH: Well, it would depend whether or not you would take that embryo and put it into a uterus for full reproduction, or taking the embryo and destroying it for purposes of research.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Okay. Now the second part of my question is then what cloning for therapeutic purposes, explain that to me a little bit.

SENATOR SMITH: Well, and I'm glad you asked that because Senator Brown asked what the difference, you know, the technical terms were, the differences between reproductive and therapeutic. It's virtually the same thing. It's what you do with the embryo after it's created, but somatic cell nuclear transfer applies to both kinds of cloning. It's just a matter of where you take it from that point forward.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: So, in other words, you're starting out with possibly the same situation or the same egg and then you make a decision as to whether one continues living or one is there for being stopped at some time? Would I be correct in staying that, Senator Smith?