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FLOOR DEBATE

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anybody, any church, any group or collection of individuals can preach and say all they want to that abortion is a sin. But they will never get me to vote as a member of the Legislature that it is a crime. That is really what we're talking about in all of these issues. When organizations call themselves antiabortion, antichoice, pro-life, or any other similar designation, their philosophical core is based on the idea that a woman should be compelled to carry a pregnancy to term. I don't subscribe to that notion. I do not believe, never have believed, never will believe that the state or society as a whole has a proprietary interest in the reproductive system of a woman. I do not believe that the state has the right to exercise ownership of a woman's body. And the tragedy in all of this is that while trying to exercise ownership of a woman's body, the only part they're interested is that between her legs. That's what it is we're talking about. Because of that, the people who hold those notions are in opposition to young women being taught about contraception and family planning. I read something that was very troubling to me. Because I do not watch these debates...and for the transcribers, there would be a period after that word "me"; I'm starting another sentence. Because I do not watch those so-called debates between Curly, Moe, and what's that other one's name?

SENATOR THOMPSON: Larry.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Larry...people know who I'm talking about--Curly, Moe, and Larry, I don't...

SENATOR FRIEND: And Shemp.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And Shemp. Thank you, Senator Friend. But the big three are the ones that we usually think about. And if the newspaper reported them correctly, I believe they said that, were they Governor, they would sign a bill of the kind that was passed by the South Dakota Legislature, which says that abortion is illegal unless the woman's life is at stake. If a woman is raped, she cannot legally obtain an abortion in South Dakota. But we know that a nutty law such as that will be struck down. If it's taken to the state Supreme Court of South Dakota, that court, knowing that it must comply with rulings by the U.S.