

February 14, 1975

CLERK: Now, Mr. President, I have a motion on the desk by Senator Cavanaugh. Page 2, line 26 strike "and"; page 2, strike line 27; and page 3, strike lines 1, 2, and 3.

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: Have the committee amendments been adopted?

CLERK: Yes sir.

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: Alright. These . . . the portions that I'm striking relate to the definition of a woman's residency and they read "every married woman shall have the legal settlement of her husband, if she has one, or if she is abandoned or deserted by him she may acquire a legal settlement as if she were unmarried". This type of requirement is an old chauvinistic requirement that should be stricken from the statutes. It used to be that we considered women, married women, as mere addendums to their husbands and now that we no longer do that and recognize them as free and independent persons we should also recognize that in all cases, married or unmarried, their residency should be determined by where they reside and not where their husband resides. I move the adoption of the amendment.

PRESIDENT: Does this motion have anything to do with Valentine's Day, Senator Cavanaugh?

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: It could. It's a sweet motion.

PRESIDENT: Senator Barnett.

SENATOR BARNETT: I wonder if the Clerk would repeat the amendments so we could get them in the books. I'm not ready to grab onto that amendment until I find out what they are.

CLERK: Line 26 strike "and"; line 27 strike in total; page 3 strike lines 1, 2 and 3.

PRESIDENT: Senator Cavanaugh.

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: Just for clarification I would say if you adopt this amendment the affect would be is a woman's residency would be determined as any other person's residence by where they live.

PRESIDENT: Senator Barnett, are you prepared to vote? Senator Dworak.

SENATOR DWORAK: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, in concerning this amendment right now the provision of the law takes care of residency requirements if brought about by abandonment or deserted. The amendment is addressing itself to a husband and a wife living in two different counties. The bill in itself only directs itself to residency qualifications. In discussing this amendment with the Welfare Department they said the passage of this would create some administrative problems and additional expenses in handling welfare payments. Where you would get in a situation almost where a woman could declare her residency at a different place where her husband lives, or where her husband lives she'd have the option almost to go one place or another. It