

March 26, 1973

directly. Abortion is an issue which I think we ought to receive information from women on, I as a man am not in a position physically, intellectually, morally, spiritually, psychologically, philosophically, or any other way, to determine whether a woman should be compelled under circumstances to carry out a pregnancy the full term and have the child. As rugged as this situation is, I think it must have a public hearing, we must hear from women, we must hear from doctors, we must hear from clergymen, all those groups of society will be involved in helping a person determine whether or not there will be an abortion. I think the attempt to handle this in this fashion might be commendable in some circles but because I'm naturally skeptical of politicians, and I'm a politician as long as I sit in the legislature, people are skeptical of me, so the hat I put on politicians in general also fits me, because I'm skeptical of politicians and an election is coming up next year, I have to believe there is some political overtone in the handling of this resolution by a suspension of the rules. I would be opposed to the suspension of the rules, the issue is far too grave to be considered in that fashion, and if the rules are suspended, and the resolution is handled, I'm going to vote against the resolution itself, and I would advise everybody else to do likewise.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Waldron.

SENATOR WALDRON: Mr. President and members of the legislature, I plan to support Senator Kennedy's resolution and suspend the rules, but there is one paragraph in there that I find a little difficult to accept, unless Senator Kennedy can substantiate it with some type of evidence, and that is where the, because where he says something in regard to the liberalization of rules in other states in regard to abortion has resulted in basically lower health standards, and some abuse in this area, and if he can substantiate that I think it should be in there, otherwise, I would hope he would agree to strike that paragraph.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Cavanaugh, then Senator Frank Lewis.

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: Mr. President and members of the body, I'd like to respond to Senator Chambers for a minute. This resolution was developed by the committee or profounded by the committee after the public hearing was held on LB 286, Senator De Camp's bill, pertaining to abortion, and it was the committee's feeling I think, that at that public hearing, the entire issue of abortion was pretty well explored and exhausted, and it's our feeling now that another public hearing on substantially the same subject would not serve any great benefit, either to the public or generate much broader knowledge of the issue, to the members of the legislature. The issue that was heard at the time Senator DeCamp's bill was heard was primarily the issue of whether or not this state should live with the Supreme Courts decision or whether this state should attempt to impose stricter standards regarding administration of abortions. That would be the same issue that would be aired at any public hearing regarding this resolution and so I would urge the members of the body that this issue has already been aired in public hearing, and that we should suspend the rules and take up this resolution.

PRESIDENT: The Chair next recognizes Senator Frank Lewis.

SENATOR LEWIS: Mr. Chairman I rise to support Senator Kennedy and reiterate what Senator Cavanaugh has said to you. Your committee on public health and welfare, listened to testimony for the better part of four hours, and it wasn't specifically geared to 286, but as Senator Cavanaugh has adequately said