

April 3, 1973

Public Health Committee held a hearing yesterday on a resolution dealing with abortion. It's been stated on this floor before and I state it once again. If you're going to stand on this floor and vote against abortion, you're going to stand here until unwed mothers, mothers with problems, that would carry that child to full term and deliver that baby and bring it into the world, then let's have the courage and intestinal fortitude to stand here and support those bills, raise the money that pay the taxes, to provide the funds that will support this kind of a bill. I ask your support for LB 235.

PRESIDENT: Chair next recognizes Senator Kennedy, then Fred Carstens, then Chambers.

SENATOR KENNEDY: Mr. President and fellow members, I'll be very brief because I think the subject has been covered. It's been covered before and I've spoken here before on the same subject saying it's too bad that we couldn't adjourn until probably after July 1st, until at least we have some idea what the Federal people were going to do to us, not for us and I say this again. We did set for two half days in a very stuffy, smoke filled, closed room and we did answer and ask questions and debate questions in Washington, D.C., last Friday afternoon and Saturday morning on these very subjects and the answer that we received as near as possible and I'm sure Senator Richard Maresh was there, will probably confirm this: As near as possible, they told us, if you fund some of these projects that you're now involved in, it will cut down on the Federal funding matching. Now this is about the way the Highway program has been proceeding. This is very disturbing to me. If we do what we feel is right, immediately the Federal will help the states that are not helping themselves and this was the very word and we asked about transportation for the handicapped retarded. We asked about the HR-1 funding, the rules and regulations. We went in detail into many of these discussions and the exact words that they gave us: Yes, if you raise the funding this year, it's going to hurt you in your allotments for the next year. Now I wish there were some way we could get an exact answer and get it in writing so that we could bring you that here in this body so you would have a real good solid idea. We cannot get that until the program is finished and they had many bills in Congress, we visited with the people that introduced the bills but they have no idea what they're going to do for us or to us and I think it's too bad that we can't at least, in my judgment, we'll not be able to discuss this subject in real valuable discussion until they tell us from Washington, D.C. what they're going to do to us so I'm trying to warn you as I did before. I would almost say if we had the budget handled at this time, we should adjourn. We certainly shouldn't pass any more bills at this time until we know what the Federal people are going to do to us or for us. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Fred Carstens. Senator Carstens passing. Senator Chambers is next then.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President and Members of the Legislature. I'm glad that I got here in time to be in on the latest battle in the war against children. That's exactly what it amounts to. I watched the Legislature ask for signatures on resolutions to fund programs for the rural areas. I signed those resolutions. For your information, the majority of people on welfare are white. I thought that needed to be clarified in the minds of some people. The average mother on welfare is not a black, over sexed woman having illegitimate babies. The majority of people on welfare in Nebraska are white so if you do things to this bill for any reason other than that you're tight with money, then I think you ought to acknowledge that that's your reason; then it can be dealt with. I think the feeling in the Legislature is one of hostility toward those who are really poor and need assistance.