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(Start Belt #8)

the information of the Senators present, but once again, these are the amendments that were unanimously, I underline the word unanimously adopted by the Nebraska Medical Association. They had an ad hoc committee that adopted these suggested changes to the committee bill. The Nebraska Medical Association for three days, I am told, went over these suggested amendments by the ad hoc committee, word for word. They spent three days on it and they unanimously adopted these amendments. They are not my amendments. They are what the NMA feels they have to have or should have to live in compliance with the Federal Supreme Court regulations. I would like to point out that both medical schools of the State of Nebraska and as far as I know, all their personnel of any repute, underline and are in agreement with what the NMA wants and that consequently, acting in behalf of the Nebraska Medical Association who have spent a great deal of time on this, I would move the adoption of the amendments as outlined on page 1414 of the Legislative Journal as amendment to the committee amendment.

SPEAKER: The Chair would like to suggest we confine our speeches to the Stahmer amendment. The Chair recognizes Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DECAMP: Mr. President, excuse me, Members of the Legislature. I definitely will confine myself to the Stahmer amendment, however, I might point out that the Stahmer amendments are what the whole issue is here today, which direction this Legislature is going to go on abortion. Now with the permission of this body, I would like to try to clarify where we are at this point because right now we have reached the very state of confusion that I was afraid would occur, and so as I say, with your permission let me start from the beginning of the abortion controversy and bring it to the very point we are now and I think we can then finish the matter in possibly another ten minutes. The issue actually started in October of 1972 when certain attorneys returning from Washington, D.C., Nebraska attorneys and other attorneys, reported that the Supreme Court had already reached a decision on the abortion question and they further reported that that decision was going to be in favor of abortion and then they gave one additional piece of information and that was that for a variety of reasons, the public announcement of that decision was deliberately going to be delayed until after the November election. They were right, it was delayed and the information they brought back was 100% right. In January at about 9:15 in the morning on the 22nd, I believe it was, the Supreme Court of the United States handed down a decision which had the effect of completely wiping out all laws in the State of Nebraska on the question of abortion. What occurred after that and has been occurring for several months, is a state of confusion as to what the laws are and what should be done and very sincere people are going in opposite directions and I think we have to take the bull by the horns, so to speak, and resolve it here today. I had done research on the whole question of abortion when the issue first was brought back to me from Washington. I met with some attorneys in Omaha who informed me as to what was happening and I began preparing legislation so that if the Supreme Court did throw out Nebraska's laws, this Legislature would be prepared to begin taking action in this area so that this would not become a wholesale abortion bill or an abortion state. I pointed out after that decision came down that for all practical purposes, a carpenter in his workshop could perform abortions on a woman nine months pregnant with impunity, without fear of criminal prosecution. The only law that even