

other alternative she has if she wants an abortion, or going ahead and having a child which she certainly never had any intention of having. The only other alternative might be to find a doctor who would skirt the law and let her have an abortion but I think this puts the medical profession in a very difficult position. Now I raised this question with Paul O'Hare, the medical legal expert who is behind this bill and the only way that he could reply to this problem is that if a woman has waited a few weeks after being raped to take any sort of action and when she finds out that she is definitely pregnant, she will just have to have the baby if she can't get consent from the rapist to have an abortion. Now this seems to me to be an example of an incredibly callous attitude towards women who may find themselves pregnant under circumstances not of their own choice. Now I think those who have backed this bill have an obligation to try to deal with problems like this, they've had this problem for a long time and it's disturbing to me that a question could come up. I'm not an attorney but several attorneys have indicated to me that not just in the question of rape but in several other circumstances, father consent could create serious legal problems. And any time when the father denies responsibility for the child and in any case where the father is unavailable, the woman is then faced with the choice of lying, claiming she doesn't know the father, doesn't know who the father was, falsely claiming promiscuity or carrying through with a child she doesn't want and in the case of rape, a child she may never have consented to create. Now when we debated the Equal Rights amendment on this floor, heard the statement that we in this body wanted to keep Nebraska women on a pedestal. Now I doubted that statement now and I doubt it even more looking at the abortion bill. It seems to me that in this section with father's consent the interest of this body may be more to keep women barefoot and pregnant. I move for the adoption of this amendment.

PRESIDENT: Next to speak is Senator Goodrich, then Carpenter, Proud, DeCamp and Marsh.

SENATOR GOODRICH: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I rise in opposition to this amendment for the very reason that I think we should keep this bill pure in its exact form that it is right now. There's been a tremendous amount of work done on this bill and I would suggest that we not amend it at all. If they are interested, if certain parties are interested in changing parts of it, let them introduce their own bill but this bill took so long to draft and to work out and to work its way through the committee so that we could get it agreed to, that I would suggest that we leave it in its exact pure form that it is right now and I would oppose any amendment to this bill.

PRESIDENT: Next to speak is Senator Carpenter.

SENATOR CARPENTER: I move the previous question.

PRESIDENT: Previous question has been moved. The question is, shall the debate now--wait a minute, does the chair see 5 hands? Thank you. The question is, shall the debate now close? All those in favor vote aye, all those opposed vote no. The motion before us is to close debate. Clerk will record.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 7 nays to close debate.

PRESIDENT: Okay, the debate will now close. Senator Fowler, do you want to close on your motion then, please. Senator Fowler is closing.