

May 24, 1973

(Start Belt #12)

PRESIDENT: Please record your presence. Clerk will record.

CLERK: Quorum present, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Do we have reports on the desk?

CLERK: Mr. President, a report (reads). Committee report read.

PRESIDENT: Stand by just a minute--Terry Car--Senator Carpenter. While the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business I have signed LB 149, 550, 559, 577, 246, 544, 545, 549, LR 23 and LB 579. Chair recognizes Senator Carpenter, for what purpose do you rise, Senator?

SENATOR CARPENTER: A point of information. I asked the Clerk, was 286, was that the abortion bill?

CLERK: Yes.

SENATOR CARPENTER: Did the Governor indicate why he didn't sign it?

CLERK: The Governor has given us no communication.

SENATOR CARPENTER: I'd like to proceed in a matter of a few minutes, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Point of personal privilege?

SENATOR CARPENTER: Yes.

PRESIDENT: Go ahead. State your point, Senator.

SENATOR CARPENTER: This is a great profile of cowardice and a lack of responsibility in an area of trying to play both sides towards the middle. Only a man who lacks principle and a man who doesn't have the courage would take that action in a bill of this controversial nature. We passed this bill, the people in this Legislature took their position and rightfully so, but then we have the picture of a man who is supposed to be the epitome of courage and who calls us all the accusations he can think of, but when it comes to a gut issue, he ducks and he runs and I would hope that all the Catholic people listening in today ought to take it at its face value. He's a man you can't trust.

PRESIDENT: Senator Stahmer, did you wish to be recognized? For what purpose do you rise, Senator?

SENATOR STAHMER: I'd like to make a comment on the same point, somewhat--perhaps not in the same line, but I--

PRESIDENT: State your point, Senator.

SENATOR STAHMER: --I can conceive of a situation and I don't think it's inconceivable that a Governor might not think legislation is good but rather than veto it, he, you could get caught in the middle. I think we stretch our imaginations pretty far when we try to stretch it so far that we play games with other people's minds, but I, I could conceive of situations not only in this area but many other areas where I would neither sign nor veto a bill. I think it's perhaps being a little unduly harsh and