

in January when the Supreme Court of the United States in a, what some felt was an earthshaking decision, overturned throughout most of the laws across the length and breadth of the United States which at that time, in most cases, prohibited abortion under almost all circumstances except to save the life of the mother. With that Supreme Court decision in 1973, most states, including Nebraska, were left without any laws whatsoever on the subject of abortion and for all practical purposes as has been said before on this floor, a garage mechanic could perform abortions on a twelve year old girl with nothing more severe than being possibly accused of practicing medicine without a license and a \$20.00 fine. From 1973 through 1978 each year major battles were fought in this Legislature and on this floor over the subject of abortion and how far the states could go. What we could do, those who in the pro-life movement wanted to stop abortion, how far they could go to regulate or prohibit this and also to insure the best medical treatment possible. These have taken anywhere from ten to twenty to thirty percent of the legislative time in some of these years. The culmination of all the abortion controversy came in the Federal District Court under Judge Warren Urbom some months ago when he ruled that the Nebraska law as written had many severe problems in it. He indicated that in an open trial many portions would be found to be unconstitutional. I might point out that none of these have been ruled unconstitutional. The indications are in a court test some of the provisions probably would be and so at the request of various groups, some of them pro-life groups, I introduced legislation this year with the hope and intent of getting into law all those matters, all those issues that had over the years been clarified by the courts that had been won by the pro-life groups as well as getting into law those mandatory things that the courts said we had to do and to strike from the law those things the court said we could not. The intent of this particular piece of legislation then with the amendments is to put into law those things that we believe we are allowed to do and that are constitutional and that we believe are necessary and proper and in those areas where there is still a question as to what we can or cannot do and where the courts have to clarify it to have them, those areas, in a form that the courts can look at, examine and make a judgement on the merits. Now, in trying to reach this condition, over the past month I have met with almost every type of representative from both pro-choice and pro-life groups and tried to work out what we believe are reasonable solutions to the problem. I believe the amendments put in a form that is acceptable to all sides the solution to this problem. This is not to say that I am claiming that everything in