

March 13, 1979

LB 316

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, throughout this discussion I have refrained from making statements but I, too, must speak for the public record. I agree with Senator Chambers and I appreciate all the work that he has done and I compliment him and we are fortunate to have him on the floor along with some others. Too easy for us as people who have been elected to lead and to set an example, we get caught up in emotion. We become frightened and so we're willing to put anything out. This bill has come a long ways from what it was when it first came out of the committee but it still has a long ways to go. I agree with Senator Chambers one more time, that if we do not in good faith attempt to amend and to bring about a bill which is fair to both sides and issues, we are negligent in our responsibility. Those who believe in pro-life and I have some feeling with them in terms of their concerns and their absolute honesty, know that they need a bill but as an individual Senator representing certain kinds of people like all of you do, I cannot and I will not support a piece of legislation that still demonstrates that there is indeed, unconstitutionality involved. It does not hurt us to sit here a while longer and try to correct every known fact to amend the bill so that when it goes to the Governor's office we know that we have indeed applied every known factor of science and rational judgment. That is why this morning I am happy and I feel relief that Senator Chambers took this time and so diligently brought to this floor, remarks which I think are appropriate and are germane to the subject. My vote will be no if we continue to throw to the Governor a bill which we know still has significant problems and I think as this body, if we are responsible, would not do that to the Governor because as you know it is a political issue. There are those on both sides who have their hit lists. It sounds to me like the Mafia running around this nation...the hit list in a civilized society. The hit list was on the last election too and some of us felt them. In fact, there was a Senator on this floor who said a year ago, for those of you who do not support this the next election you may die. I took that choice. I did not die. I feel good about this day because when I take the oath to uphold the constitution, I am going to do it as long and as well as I know how based upon all the facts at hand, and I would hope that Senator DeCamp and others would be willing to bring back this bill and amend it to the extent that it needs amending to clarify any issue that still may be suspect and I would hope that