

of not being able to get 891 up which would have precluded tax dollars to be used to pay for premiums of insurance that may purchase abortion benefits. I realize this is just an intent bill. I am fully aware of that. But I think it is the prerogative of this legislative body through LB 1004 to indicate very strongly and very clearly as to how we in Nebraska desire tax dollars to be spent. Now this bill, or this intent language, in no way gets involved with the choice argument, the right to choose. We are not taking that right away with this intent language. All we are saying is that if you do choose to insure against an abortion, then you shall pay that portion of the premium. So the choice argument is absolutely moot. I think we have absolutely no constitutional questions as far as the Supreme Court or as far as the United States Constitution is concerned. The amount of premium that we are talking about is nominal, and I do not have an accurate figure. But the usual abortion type coverage is paid generally administratively under an insurance contract the same as a miscarriage is paid. That generally runs about 50 cents per month per family unit. So we are not certainly putting any severe financial burden on any individual. There is some problem and there was some question voiced primarily by NSEA in the hearing as to existing contracts. Are we becoming involved with existing contracts? I think if you will look at the Attorney General's letter, if you will look at his opinion on page 962 of the Journal, that is as adamantly and clearly answered as it can be answered. There is absolutely...that is one of the strongest, clearest letters that I have seen in the five years I have been in the Legislature from the Attorney General on a piece of legislation. So I would suggest rather than belabor this debate, that we adopt this amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Okay, there are amendments to the Dworak amendment. What is the first amendment, Mr. Clerk?

CLERK: The first one, Mr. President, is offered by Senator Fowler. Senator Fowler moves to amend the Dworak amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Chair recognizes Senator Fowler.

SENATOR FOWLER: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, my amendment I had handed out, and it is five lines... it is to add in the Dworak amendment when he talks about insurance coverage to indicate "except that the insurer shall offer individual employees special coverage for abortion and the costs of coverage shall be borne solely by the employee". I guess I offer this amendment to try and determine