

the truth of the arguments that Senator Dworak is making as to the motives behind his amendment. He says that the question really is just whether or not the matching share of state money should be used to provide a fringe benefit that includes abortion coverage, and that it is not a question of whether or not a person should be able to choose whether their insurance provides that, just a question of where the funds to pay for that insurance should come from. Now I offer this amendment to indicate that one hundred percent of the cost would be paid by the employee and that abortion only coverage shall be provided. Now if Senator Dworak is accurate in saying that the issue is only where the funds come from, he should accept this amendment. Insurance companies, it is my belief, will not provide this unless we in the Legislature indicate we intend we want it to be provided. Insurance companies will not volunteer to give women the choice that Senator Dworak says is inherent in his amendment. In fact, it is not inherent in his amendment. It indicates simply what shall not be provided. In no place does it indicate what might be provided or should be provided in terms of what could be paid with public employee funds. So I offer this amendment to see, in fact, if Senator Dworak and the other sponsors are sincere in saying that they want to give women a choice, if they are willing to pay a hundred percent of the cost that they can have abortion provided, because it is my sincere belief that without this amendment the insurance providers will not voluntarily offer to provide this coverage. So I think if we are going to restrict the use of funds on the one hand if we are sincere about choice, we should indicate that another option should be provided that could be paid a hundred percent with employee funds. This is the reason I offer this amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator George, do you wish to...Senator George, do you wish to speak to the Fowler amendment to the Dworak amendment?

SENATOR GEORGE: Mr. President, thank you, I would like to just briefly address both of those if I may. It is now 11:17. We are just on bill number two. I think we will have to sit here till midnight and I will not vote for either the Fowler amendment or the Dworak amendment for one very simple reason. We cannot continue gluing bills that didn't make it on those bills on Select File in hope of rescuing those bills. Those discussions will go on probably for an hour and waste valuable time and therefore I urge you just not to accept either one of those amendments and go back to our schedule. Thank you.