

April 14, 1980

LB 1004

SENATOR LANDIS: However, in this case we are enacting a morality of a faction of the population. This is not a consensus held opinion that abortion is morally wrong. As a matter of fact, it seems clear from polls that abortion according to the majority of the population should be available, and what we are doing by 1004 is to restrict that right. I am against this bill, not only because of its effect on human beings but also on its effect into the law by taking minority moral opinions and forcing them by the instrument of the law on an unwilling populace, and I intend to vote against LB 1004 in any of its forms because I think it is deleterious to the quality of the law, to our own personal moralities because of that and because, in essence, it is coercive against individuals and their right to choose, and I oppose the bill on that basis.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Fowler.

SENATOR FOWLER: Well, Mr. President, with the Stoney amendment, I would have to oppose adoption of this amendment. Laws similar to this, resolutions, and whatever have been passed in several cities and states across the country. Now I would like to ask either Senator Dworak, Senator Labeledz or Senator Stoney if they can name an insurance company in any of those communities that, in fact, offer abortion only coverage. Senator Dworak, or Senator Labeledz or Senator Stoney, can you name for me an insurance company in a state or community where this type of law or resolution has been passed that offers abortion only coverage? Senator Dworak.

SENATOR DWORAK: Senator Fowler, there are a lot of insurance companies and, you know, I can't really say whether one offers the abortion only or maternity only or dental only, or any other coverage only. I....

SENATOR FOWLER: Okay, fine.

SENATOR DWORAK: ...certainly they offer it as part of a package.

SENATOR FOWLER: Okay. There is a question that concerned me when I first saw the optional rider, in fact, whether or not any insurance company would go through the mechanics of trying to establish a class of abortion only coverage. In talking with the Health Insurance Association of America, they could not name any separate coverage for abortion. In the state of Kentucky which has passed a law like this, which has the elective option, again there is no option