

March 30, 1981

LB 466

SPEAKER MARVEL: LB 466.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 466 offered by Senator Labeledz and Senator Cullan. (Read title.) The bill was first read on January 20. It was referred to the Public Health and Welfare Committee. The bill was advanced to General File. There are committee amendments pending by Public Health and Welfare, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Cullan. Senator Labeledz, do you wish to take the amendments?

SENATOR LABEDZ: I was just informed that Senator Cullan will not be here this afternoon so if I can possibly take the committee amendments.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Okay.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. LB 466 was introduced by myself originally and Senator Cullan asked later that his name be added to the bill and I am very sorry that he isn't here but perhaps I can explain the committee amendments because the committee amendments are the bill. The proposed changes and the reasons I shall give you now why the committee amendments should be adopted by this body in order to make LB 466 a bill that I am sure that even those that oppose the movement that we have going on in Omaha will realize that what I am trying to do here is for the benefit of those people that do obtain abortions. The proposed changes in the Nebraska law that we are about to consider are an attempt to protect the health and safety of women who undergo abortions. This will be accomplished by requiring a physician who performs an abortion to be available for a period of not less than forty-eight hours for postoperative care. In the event a physician will not be available such care must be delegated to and accepted by another physician. This particular change is in the section of law which defines unprofessional conduct on the part of a physician. This is an appropriate definition of unprofessional conduct because I believe that any woman who goes through the experience of an abortion and subjects herself to the possibility of serious postoperative complications, she should be guaranteed that backup care will be provided in the event of any complications. The second committee amendment would define any residence, office or clinic of a private physician or association of physicians which performs ten or more abortions a week as a health clinic. The purpose of this amendment is to require that all private physicians' offices, residences and clinics which perform ten or more abortions per week be considered a health clinic and thus subject to the regulations and the standards governing health clinics which are by the State Department