

parents or anyone else. I'm disappointed that the issue of germaneness was not correctly decided, but even though this amendment has been deemed germane, there is no question that it is inappropriate and irrelevant to the contents of informed consent and should not be in the criminal statutes. It is not a bad concept. Maybe Senator Marsh should introduce a bill next year, but it should not be in the criminal code on the abortion issue.

PRESIDENT: Senator Marsh.

SENATOR MARSH: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, all pregnant women deserve qualified counselors whatever the choice of that woman. If you wish to put all the qualifications in statute for counseling for the pregnant woman, then all counselors should be qualified counselors. If an individual is not a qualified counselor, he or she may not have the facts to share. Ultimately a physician is responsible for the quality of the counseling available. Again I will say to you, we do not put in our statutes the requirement for the physician who is performing the tonsillectomy, for the physician who is performing the gall bladder, but on this issue alone we try to put stumbling blocks into statute. I am one who wants qualified counselors for all, not just one category to add to the complications for some individuals.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Scofield.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Yes, I have a question, Mr. President, of Senator Labeledz, if she is around.

PRESIDENT: Senator Labeledz, you are asked to answer a question from Senator Scofield.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: I guess I could direct this to either Senator Hall or Senator Labeledz. I guess my ears perked up a little bit as some of you may know, I have a Masters degree in counseling and I began to get a little nervous here when we started talking about who is qualified and who isn't as a counselor and I want you to explain for me one more time, Senator Labeledz, because I don't think I tracked that carefully enough, in this process at what point are you assuming that counseling will, in fact, occur?

SENATOR LABEDZ: Just prior...it's informed consent prior to