

standards for the individuals who will take from the patient, who will take from the patient their informed consent and who will impart factual information to that patient so that that patient can make an informed consent, to set those standards in the criminal context is not responsible Nebraska policy. Now, understand I have been down here for eight legislative years and the abortion question raises many emotional responses but one must set aside some of those emotional responses and take a look at the question in a relatively dispassionate context. I have been down here as this Legislature has adopted unconstitutional law after unconstitutional law, the effect of which has been virtually to wipe abortion as a regulated procedure off of our books. The laws have been blatantly unconstitutional. They have been enjoined. They have been enjoined, and so as a result, the State of Nebraska is without a constitutional abortion policy and we should have a constitutional abortion policy. Abortion is no small procedure. It is no small procedure because it does affect a life in potential and it does affect a woman and it does affect that woman's friends and parents and family. It is no small procedure, and given the fact that it is no small procedure, we need to address it in a responsible, constitutional, thoughtful manner and not in a manner which simply, which simply feeds the passions of the crowd. Now, as far as I am concerned, requiring informed consent for any person about to undergo an abortion is good policy. It is good policy provided, however, that the kind of information that must be imparted is essentially medical information. It is good policy. But to then establish particular standards for who or who may not impart that information superseding legislatively the judgment of the physician who operates the clinic or his office or her office legislatively is bad policy, particularly in the criminal context, particularly in the criminal context. That is what we are doing. This state has expended a half a million dollars defending unconstitutional abortion legislation.

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: How much longer, how much longer must we continue to expend money on legislation that could be unconstitutional, that certainly could be challenged, that certainly could be challenged? Is it not possible for us to simply develop thoughtful, careful, prudent abortion policies? At this point I will oppose the advancement of