

LB 663.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Chambers. Senator Landis is next and Senator Higgins.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, now that Senator Johnson has tried to give the dispassionate, logical arguments, I will discuss it on the basis on which the decisions are being made. When a religious group can get its points of view or philosophy adopted as the law of the state, even though it is going to be stricken down later by a court, I can't really blame that religion for trying to do it. The Muslims do it. Khomeini has combined the church and the state. Falwell is interested in doing it, so it is not unheard of and people in the legislative assembly have the right to try to do anything they can get a majority of the members to do. However, and I listened to Ronald Reagan say that one child aborted is a tragedy or every child aborted is a tragedy. That sounds good, until I look on television and see him sending his minions across the street from the White House to run homeless people off public land who are trying to find shelter from the elements, until I realize that Ronald Reagan is the one who has said that critically ill old people will be taken off Medicare and Medicaid if, while in a hospital, with the aid of somebody else they can walk 50 steps, they will be taken off, it causes me to wonder about his sincerity. When I can see him saying catsup is a vegetable for the purpose of justifying the cutting of school lunch programs for poor children, then I wonder about his sincerity. Or when he wants to cut nutrition programs for pregnant women about whom he supposedly is so concerned, I wonder about his sincerity and the morality of those who push these kind of issues and are so concerned about this fetus until it comes into the world as a human being. We have babies and infants who are sick and turned away from hospitals in this state because their parents do not have Blue Cross-Blue Shield or some other medical insurance policy or a large percentage of the cash required for the treatment of that child and this Legislature hypocritically talks about being concerned about that which has not even become a child yet. We are going to have a bill to try to increase by a very modest amount the aid given to women who have these babies and are trying to give them some kind of decent life and this Legislature, as it has ever done, will heartlessly vote it down, and yet all of the discussion here