

Most people sitting on the floor right now cannot tell you what is in LB 425, as it sits before us now. But it is not necessary for anybody on this floor to know it, because it does not impact on them. So it is very easy to do as Jesus said the Pharisees do. He said they bind heavy burdens grievous to be borne and lay them on other men's shoulders and they will not touch them with one of their little fingers. That is what this body does, heavy burdens on other people that will not affect them in any way. So if we are talking about creating a right by which a young lady, who feels that she cannot go to her parents, can, nevertheless, obtain an abortion if one is necessary, we say we are creating that right. A right which is unknown is not a right. There can be no justified reason for keeping these young ladies ignorant of the right that we call ourselves creating. I am glad Senator Kristensen came back to the Chamber because a comment he made with reference to the appellate court bill applies here. At the hearing before the Judiciary Committee on March 18, 1981 (sic), Senator Kristensen said the following: "If you are going to give people meaningful rights and meaningful appeals, you have to have a meaningful system." To make any system meaningful, there has to be knowledge made available about that system, and that is all Senator Withem's amendment talks about doing. Ignorance is not bliss, ignorance is deadly. To keep our young ladies ignorant of this most essential area that affects them is to equate ignorance with orthodoxy. The orthodox person is ignorant and the Legislature wants them to be ignorant. I challenge Senator Schmit to explain to me why these young women should not be given information about this bill, which he said he supports. He talked about the concern that I and others, who believe in a woman's right to have a choice, express for children. There have been descriptions of these young women who are involved in our discussion as children, young ladies. So, if we have concern for them, why should we not give them this information? How can knowledge hurt anybody? How can withholding the truth be beneficial to a society? And if this bill becomes law, it represents the legal truth with reference to how an abortion can be obtained by a woman under a certain age, who is not considered under the law to be emancipated. I would like to understand or have somebody help me understand why it is so essential to notify these parents that a young woman wants to have an abortion, but it is not important to notify the young lady of what the law says with reference to her obtaining one should she not have a relationship with her family that would make her feel comfortable telling them. I wish Senator Lindsay