

Members Present:

Chairman Hayes
Vice Chairman Stewart
Mr. Brady
Mr. Coulter
Mr. Fielding
Mr. Horn
Mr. Malone
Mr. Polish
Mr. Prengaman
Mr. Sena

Members Absent:

Mr. Banner

Guests Present:

Carol Brigger	Pro Family
Jean Morton Downey	Life Amendment
Kim Downey	
Janna Gardner	Pro Family
Patricia Glenn	Pro Life
Ruth McGroarty	Right to Life
Linda Panter	Pro Family
Mike Triggs	
Ruth Ann Wright	NOW

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 27

Requires Congress to call a convention limited to proposing amendment to Constitution to restrict abortion.

Kim Downey testified for A.J.R. 27. He felt that the previous bill was better to the unborn child. As far as religion and the ten commandments, he feels that people take them for what they want. He stated that a study had been done in Minneapolis where 3,000 women were raped and none of them turned up pregnant. Mr. Downey would like to see rape and incest removed from the bill and allow abortion only for the sake of the mothers life. This bill would enable the American people to state their feelings on this issue. He sees no problem with a constitutional convention since it is limited to one issue.

Steve Coulter stated that to call a constitutional convention would cause us a great trauma.

Ruth McGroarty, Director of the Right to Life, testified for this bill. She stated that Nevada defeated the abortion bill in 1969, and 1971. Mrs. McGroarty stated that she felt the constitution says that everyone has a right to life. She admires Senator Gibson for his actions and feels that there is not one bill more

important than this one.

Pat Glenn, Pro Life, testified for this bill. She said that Article 5 of the constitution provides for two methods in which to call a constitutional convention. So far, 14 states have passed amendments similar to this one. She feels that a constitutional convention can be done through orderly channels and abortion on demand is the most terrible issue to face America. Ms. Glenn felt that abortion is just a start; next will come mercy killing of the aged, crippled, mentally disabled, etc. She would vote for any bill that would give more protection to the rights of the unborn. She would like to see Steve Coulter have more of an open mind, stating that testimony would be of no use if you didn't. Ms. Glenn felt that the U.S. Supreme Court did not realize that one million babies a year would be murdered a year when they made their decision.

Rosa Matthews testified for this bill. She felt that abortion is the ultimate cop out and for once she would like to see the men lead us down the right path. She stated that they are not trying to deny any rights to women but they are trying to equalize rights on the other hand. Ms. Matthews stated that she would like to see the legislature help the young people go in the right direction and take some responsibility.

Peggy Westall, Assemblyman, stated that she was aware that from the beginning there were abortions but if it were to be limited then at least there would not be 5,000 abortions a year in the state of Nevada. The birth rate has stayed the same but the abortion rate has doubled.

Ruth Ann Wright, NOW, spoke in opposition to this bill. She felt that this was a legislative sham and they are not being allowed due process and that no matter what this bill will be ramrodded through. She stated that this issue needs more time and the rules are being bent and broken; she would like to see this committee hold the bill held and not released to the floor.

Chairman Hayes stated that no rules were violated and if no one showed up it's their own fault and this is not the same bill because the wording is different.

Ms. Wright stated that this bill was not referred in the usual manner to Ways and Means and then to Natural Resources to be killed.

Chairman Hayes stated that the ERA bill was not referred to the Judiciary committee either and she didn't complain about it then.

Paul Prengaman felt that the bill had been introduced the wrong way.

Steve Coulter stated that the majority of the Senate did not vote on this bill and he feels that you cannot have it both ways.

Nick Horn feels that the Assembly Judiciary Committee should not have to sit in judgement of something the Senate did. He questioned Ms. Wright as to whether she felt that she had been treated fairly in the Assembly.

Ms. Wright stated that, yes, she thought so. She stated that the Senate has rules on how to assign bills and it should go to Human Resources and Judiciary and that if the bill doesn't, then the rules were bent.

Bill Brady interjected that she is asking him to allow 10,000 babies to die in the state of Nevada before the next session just because he is mad at the Senate.

Ms. Wright stated that the ends justify the means and it is dangerous to change procedure.

Jan Stewart interjected that the only reason Ms. Wright was against the bill was because she knew it would be passed.

Mike Malone asked to speak out on this issue. He stated that Ms. Wright was putting all of the Assembly Judiciary members in the same boat by calling this a legislative sham. He did not want to be pinned with this tag and what has been done is legal. Mr. Malone stated that 40 assemblymen had been elected by the people of Nevada, each having one vote and each assemblyman will have a right to vote on this issue. He does not stand responsible for what the Senate did and for this committee to hold the bill and not release it to the floor would be dishonest and deceitful; the exact same thing that she is talking against.

Ms. Wright quoted that the word sham means something that appears true but is actually false.

Steve Coulter felt that it would have been a fairer hearing in Ways and Means because the Assembly Judiciary Committee is stacked. Steve Coulter made a motion to Do Pass S.J.R. 27 with an amendment that would put the bill on the June 5th ballot for the people of Nevada to vote on.

Nick Horn stated that under Committee Rule 10 this is illegal.

Bill Brady stated that he could not understand how Steve Coulter could say that the committee was stacked and he was in disbelief and shock at this statement.

Peggy Westall asked Steve Coulter about fairness and since when is it fair to hold a hearing on a bill and not inform the sponsor of the bill. This is what the Senate Judiciary Committee did to

the first abortion bill that she had sponsored.

Mr. Polish stated that he felt that the process that the legislature observes is perfectly adequate and nothing is out of place and no rules are bent.

At that time, Ruth McGroarty stood up in the audience and stated that in no way would she endorse support of a ballot referendum because Nevada has already shown that they do not want abortion in the past.

Steve Coulter made a motion to Do Pass S.J.R. 27 with the amendment of an advisory referendum to be placed on the June 5th ballot; Mr. Prensaman seconded the motion.

Mr. Stewart moved to amend the motion; Mr. Malone seconded the motion. The committee approved the motion on the following vote:

Aye - Hayes, Stewart, Malone, Horn, Polish, Fielding, Brady,
Sena - 8

Nay - Prensaman, Coulter - 2

Absent - Banner - 1

Mr. Stewart moved to Do Pass S.J.R. 27; Mr. Malone seconded the motion. The committee approved the motion on the following vote:

Aye - Hayes, Stewart, Malone, Horn, Polish, Fielding, Brady,
Sena - 8

Nay - Prensaman, Coulter - 2

Absent - Banner - 1

Chairman Hayes adjourned the meeting at 10:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy E. Williams

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Secretary

Knights of Columbus

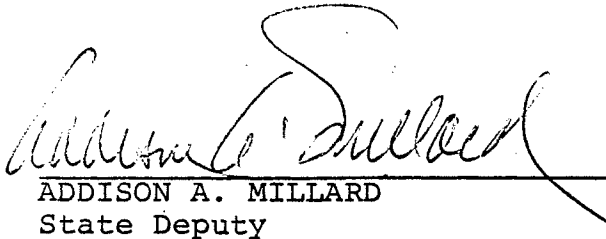
NEVADA STATE COUNCIL

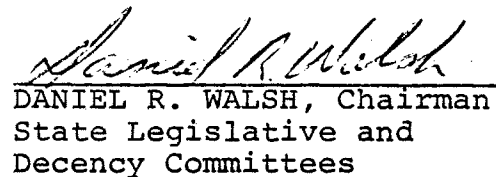
May 22, 1979

TO: THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE NEVADA STATE
ASSEMBLY

RE: ABORTION - SJR 27

The Nevada Knights of Columbus, in state convention at the Ormsby House, Carson City, May 18, 19, 20, 1979, urgently request your favorable consideration and passage of SJR 27. The members of our order from all parts of Nevada strongly support this resolution.


ADDISON A. MILLARD
State Deputy


DANIEL R. WALSH, Chairman
State Legislative and
Decency Committees