

Copy to Mr. James Earl R. Ward Sr.
6-1-76 dx

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

May 27, 1976

COUNCIL INFORMATION
6-8-76

Paul
Mr. Paul E. Wolven
City Manager
City of Oxnard
305 West Third Street
Oxnard, California

Dear Mr. Wolven,

I welcome this opportunity to share with you my views on the issue of abortion and the Supreme Court decision of January 22, 1973, which invalidates, under the Constitution, state laws that prohibit or restrict abortions during the first three months of pregnancy.

I am deeply concerned by an action that seems to so many people to constitute governmental sanction of the destruction of human life.

At the same time, in the case of ROE, ET. AL. V. BOLTON, ATTORNEY GENERAL OF GEORGIA, ET. AL., the Supreme Court based its decision on the Constitution, which is the supreme law of the land. Consequently, the decision cannot be altered or revoked by statute.

In response to the high Court decision, several members of Congress have proposed resolutions calling for a Constitutional amendment. The Senate Subcommittee on Constitutional Amendments has held extensive hearings on these proposed resolutions during the past year and has recently voted not to act affirmatively on any of the resolutions at this time. At present, I am inclined to support the Subcommittee's decision. I believe we must approach amendments to the Constitution with the greatest caution and not proceed in the heat of response to a specific unpopular decision of the Court--even though that decision may be one which results in strong controversy stemming from deeply felt personal objections.

I do not pretend that this is a simple or easily resolved issue. I recognize the very strong beliefs and feelings on both sides. I appreciate your interest and assure you that I am considering all facets of this controversy.

Sincerely,

Alan Cranston

Alan Cranston

*Idaho 1/1/77
JMT*