

PHILA INQ WED 2-15-95
Specter on Dr. Foster

I noted your article of Feb. 8 regarding the intensifying battle over the nomination of Henry W. Foster Jr. for surgeon general of the United States, which quotes me as "very much concerned that Dr. Foster misrepresented his record."

While the quotation is accurate, it fails to include an essential part of my statement, namely that I do not believe that performing a legal medical procedure should be a "litmus" test for confirmation for surgeon general. If some wish to deny Dr. Foster confirmation because he has performed "any" abortions, then the Senate should debate and carefully consider whether a nominee should be disqualified where he or she has performed a medical procedure that is legal under the United States Constitution.

I do not believe that a person is disqualified if he or she has performed a medical procedure that is legal under the Constitution of the United States.

Sen. Arlen Specter
Washington