

April 2, 1975

CLERK: 30 ayes, 2 nays, 17 not voting.

PRESIDENT: The Committee Amendments are adopted.

CLERK: I now have a motion on the desk. I move to strike in the Committee Amendment, Paragraph 1 from "No child" through the remainder of that paragraph. Signed, Senator Chambers.

PRESIDENT: Senator Marsh.

SENATOR MARSH: I have a question of procedure, please. As introducer of this legislation, may I explain the bill now before the amendment which Senator Chambers has proposed is explained?

PRESIDENT: Is this the first time?

SENATOR MARSH: It's the first time now! It's just come from committee.

PRESIDENT: There is a motion before the house. The Chair recognizes Senator Marsh.

SENATOR MARSH: Mr. President, LB 20 with the adoption of the Committee Amendment is now a compromised bill which the State Department of Public Welfare endorses. The other departments of public welfare and the other law protective services, and the other law enforcement agencies have said, "we can compromise with this bill the way it is now." LB 20 is mandated that we have this passed as quickly as possible so that we come under compliance with federal regulations. It adds the word neglect in sixteen different places in the bill and I would propose that we do not "jimmy" with this document that is the true compromise. As you are aware, it has had its second public hearing which lasted until 7:00 p.m. at night. I have appreciated what the members of the Judiciary Committee have done. This is the compromise with Senator Goodrich who now supports it in its present form and I hope that we can move this forward now, in this form, to Final Reading as quickly as possible.

PRESIDENT: Senator Chambers. The question before the House is Senator Chambers amendment to the Committee amendment.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, as you know this bill had come before the Body and was sent back to the Committee so my amendment deals with the original committee amendment and it's the part known as the Christian Science Amendment which states, so all of you are aware what I'm trying to strike from the bill, "No child or incompetent or disabled person shall be considered neglected or lack necessary care for the sole reason he or she is being provided treatment by spiritual means through prayer alone in accordance with the recognized religious remedial method of healing." I slept this amendment the first time it was attached on the floor. I acknowledge that. But I've opposed this amendment everytime it has been attempted to attach to a bill because I think the state should not officially in statute recognize any religion or the practice thereof. Many things, as everybody who has studied any history at all, many things are done in the name of religion which cannot be justified on any other basis. And the way this amendment is written, the word spiritual, I think, has no legal and no statutory definition.