

April 6, 1983

LB 225

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So there is nothing that stops them?

SENATOR HEFNER: But they would just like to have it drawn out and have it in the statutes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: You mean...? Thank you, Senator Hefner. Mr. Chairman, this is one of the most ridiculous things I have ever heard of since I have been here in the Legislature. That may be an overstatement, it is one of the most ridiculous ones. Somebody can go to the store when they please so it suddenly occurs to them, hey, I can get the Legislature to pass a law saying I can go to the store so they come before some committee and they say, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I'm going to the store now but I want a law that says I can go to the store. So the chairman says, well they must have some kind of point so he tells the committee, let's put this on the floor, see what they think about it. They put it out here and then instead of rationality overruling irrationality, irrationality prevails. There is no need for a law to authorize somebody to do what they are doing right now and where there is no legal impediment to it. If they are trying to raise the standards of the profession let them get together a professional association and draw up a code of ethics or whatever they want to but I think it is a mistake for the Legislature to enact this bill. It is totally unnecessary. It's absence does not prevent these people from doing anything they want to do but I'll tell you what it might do. It might put them in a position to add \$500 to every funeral by saying that the Legislature has said we must take this training and this training must be paid for and you are going to pay for it. Senator Hefner, I think it is wrong and I'm not blaming you for it but it is your bill and because of the subject that we're dealing with, namely people who are in a very sad state of mind based on how they feel and their ability to reason, we are putting an additional tool in the hands of a group of people whose job it is to make as much money as they can like any other salesperson will do. So, I don't think the Legislature ought to put in law something that can be converted into a justification to charge more money to people for these funerals when they are being overcharged for them right now. If you don't pass this bill....

SENATOR CHRONISTER: You have one minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...if you don't advance it, you are not going to hinder the funeral directors or the embalmers at all. If you do pass it you may put them and probably will put them in a position to gouge people even further