

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

June 2, 1997

LB 798

football players, where everybody makes money off of them, except the players. So people were outraged, even people who were waiting to receive an organ, and they would have to pay for it, and have people put on fund raisers to get that money to pay these altruistic doctors and hospitals who are saying that the organ donor ought to just give it as a gift of life, because that's the way it's done. These people had even been put in the frame of mind of saying, well, the gift of life won't really be a gift if you pay the person who gives the organ, and I don't know if I'd like that. You let them be told that the only heart we can get for you is a heart from a person who received compensation. Do you think that individual needing the heart will say, oh I think this besmirches this gift of life, and I don't want that heart, I'd rather die first. No. The...this profit-making, wealthy operation is the one who is going to call the shots on health care. They're going to price it out of the range of most people, they will continue to gouge Medicare and Medicaid, everywhere they can get money they're going to get it. They're going to double bill, triple bill, split fees, they're going to charge for a particular specialist who did not give the service, all of these ways to gain money and the care that the patient receives is the lowest thing on the ladder. The only reason they need patients at all is to have a dodge for gaining all of this money. And they are making money hand over fist. That's why they're going into it for profit and Columbia HCA is gobbling up hospitals all over the country. Why don't they want to share the wealth? The doctors were moaning about the thousands and thousands of people who are waiting for organs but the few hundred people who were willing to donate. I will tell you something that I noticed in this milieu of giving the gift of life, none of them speak as though the organ donor was a human being. They never mention or even suggest that somebody else had to die to make these organs available. The only one who counts in this whole scheme is the one who's going to be able to pay money, and that is the potential recipient. So it's as though these organs just spring up out of nowhere. If you saw the original movie called "The Thing", it was about this vegetable which came to this planet on a space ship. And even though it had the knowledge and intelligence to come to this planet, while people on this planet don't have what it takes to get to the vegetables planted. The vegetable was portrayed as a virtual, veritable, primitive savage which ate flesh, killed