

March 29, 1973

SPEAKER: Senator Marvel.

SENATOR MARVEL: It would be interesting to get into a religious discussion with Senator Chambers. I rise in support of the amendment, and if there are questions about it, I would ask that you hold this up until you gather more information. We are talking about, we aren't talking about any specific religion, as Senator Chambers has indicated because this is unconstitutional. We however, do recognize legally, organized religious groups, and this is simply another evidence of recognizing those groups which believe in certain practices. Therefore, I think it is perfectly legal, perfectly legitimate, we aren't doing anything that we haven't done before, this type of an amendment has been put on other legislation, if you still have questions as Senator Stahmer has, then I suggest we hold up the bill until we get additional information. As far as I'm concerned, I am satisfied, I support the amendment, I think that the bill should pass with the amendment on it.

SPEAKER: Is there any further discussion? Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Marvel would you yield to a question?

SENATOR MARVEL: Yes sir.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Now without getting into the merits of any religion, we are aware that the Jehovah's Witnesses do not believe in the utilization of blood in any form, based on a provision that they find in scripture. (Mike turned off) be opposed to amending this amendment to say, that no parent would be found to be guilty of child abuse if in good faith, they refused to allow their child to receive a blood transfusion, since we're just, we're not, you know since we're recognizing everybody and putting them on the same basis, does the Jehovah's Witnesses have the entitlement to the same umbrella that the Christian Science have?

SENATOR MARVEL: If they are properly recognized, you see I'm not an authority on Jehovah's Witnesses, if they are properly recognized, if this is, if they are recognized first of all as an organized religion, -

SENATOR CHAMBERS: They are.

SENATOR MARVEL: If this is a part of their belief, then -

SENATOR CHAMBERS: It is.

SENATOR MARVEL: the answer would be yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Do you think that would work to the welfare of children when in Omaha, within the past few months, a court has ordered that a hospital be declared the guardian of a child so that he could receive a blood transfusion which it needed to save it's life?

SENATOR MARVEL: If the court, if the court has so ordered, yes. All I'm talking about is, is, is the religion with which I am familiar, which has to do basically with Christianity and healing and I, as I indicated I'm not, I don't think it's proper for me to get into this kind of an argument with you, I'm not certain I could win it anyway, but I feel quite strongly in this area of healing as a part of the Christian religion which is a basic belief and you cite instances from the bible, I can cite other instances from the bible, but I'm not certain that proves anything.