

yours is accepted this time and you vote against the bill then I think that is the most inconsistent position you could take, but for those who Senator Maresh's vote, amendment will make possible to vote for the bill, you ought to seize it as the opportunity to do something for the children of this State. The bill is designed to give protection to a category of citizens who cannot protect themselves well. It has been demonstrated down through the years that fluoride does help teeth of children. We're trying to help the children and I think the bill ought to be passed with or without Senator Maresh's amendment, but I'll say this to him, if he'll yield to a question; Senator Maresh, would you yield?

SENATOR MARESH: Yes, yes I would.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Now, what is it exactly that you're opposed to with regard to the fluoridation of water? Let's forget about local controls, but with reference to the fluoridation of water? Are you opposed to that concept?

SENATOR MARESH: No, I, I, I believe that fluoridation in water is good for the--well for the children but is it-- people don't want to be forced into this--I, I heard from the people--

SENATOR CHAMBERS: --children?

SENATOR MARESH: No, the people that write to me, they're against it and I had very little support except from a few dentists, told me that they support the bill, that as a whole, people from the whole State wrote to me and were objecting to--

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Maresh, did you vote for or against that amendment to the child abuse bill which would let children be denied medicine if the parents' religion said they should be denied medicine?

SENATOR MARESH: I voted against that--

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Because you were interested in the welfare of the children--

SENATOR MARESH: --right.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: --alright, now could this be a parallel situation where adults whose teeth will not be benefited by fluoride or who might not even have any teeth are making an unfair decision for the children? Can't you expand your thinking to include this like you did on the other bill and vote for the welfare of the children?

SENATOR MARESH: Well, I think child abuse sometimes means life and death, wouldn't you say and I don't think this is a matter of life and death.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I have just one other comment then I'll sit down. Thank you, Senator Maresh. When Senator Cavanaugh was asking Senator Maresh a number of questions earlier today, you were the fish, he was the--he had the net and he caught you but you didn't realize it.

PRESIDENT: Chair recognizes Senator Cavanaugh, then Savage, Dickinson, Proud, Nore. Senator Cavanaugh. We still have before us really the Maresh amendment. Let's try to confine the remarks to that please.