

especially Senator Haberman, I would like to state for the record right now, that I have no intentions of going into the used casket business, and you will not see a sign, Sam Cullan's Used Caskets. Seriously, Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I do oppose Senator Haberman's amendment. I think that when we are talking about cremations, and other...specifically cremations, when caskets can be reused, and that does lessen the burden of burying individuals, and the expensive cost that is sometime entailed when that happens, and so I see no reason why a casket cannot be reused. I think it is something that...this is kind of a consumer amendment to that point. It should lessen the cost of funeral services and very seriously, Mr. President, I think it is improper for us to require that caskets be used only once and see that people pay that expense, which is an unnecessary one for many people who are not of substantial means. I think we should make these processes inexpensive as we possibly can. And therefore, very seriously, Mr. President, I oppose Senator Haberman's amendment, which I believe will increase the cost of burying individuals and so I oppose the amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Marsh.

SENATOR MARSH: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I stand to oppose the proposed amendment. As a consumer, and as a citizen, the choice should be allowed the citizen. No one will be forced to use...to choose a used casket, but there are many families who would choose to have a beautiful, very expensive second hand casket that was used to transport a body from Lincoln to a crematorium in another location, one that has not been buried in the earth, but only used on display for a short period of time. It is not whether you want one or not, but it should be a choice to the consumer. We are not forcing anyone to use one, but right now we forbid anyone to use...make use of any casket which has ever held a body. That is not wise. It is discriminatory to the consumer. The person who makes the choice should have a choice. Perhaps it will be so unpopular that that item will not be carried, but do not forbid, by statute, the choice.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Chambers, do you wish to speak to the Haberman amendment?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Oh, yes. Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I have to applaud Senator Haberman for what he is doing here. I'm shocked that Senator Marsh would say, this is in the interest of the consumer, and that nobody would be forced to use one of these used boxes. Now, this is a gravedigger's dream. Why, what they can do now is put trapdoors in them, and take them over to the grave, put the little lever, they plop on out the bottom, you close it up and take it back and use it