

April 27, 1979

LB 382

laetrile is that it does no harm at the recommended dosage and it does bring, yes, it does bring the cancer patient peace of mind. You know just about two years ago a good friend of mine who lived about two houses up the street, probably one of the best third baseman's that ever came out of the City of Omaha. Well, if he were living today, he would be about 72 or 73 years old and I can remember one spring morning we were walking down the alley, he has retired since from the bar business, I was walking down the alley and I saw these black marks going down the back of his neck and the color and the strength of this man were absent. He had no strength. He had no energy and his color was like that of a cloud and I said, what are those black marks on your body? He said, I don't know what the hell the doctors are doing to me but I think they are trying to kill me. You know, he was right. Six months later he was dead. And it all began with a lump in the back of his neck. He started taking cobalt. I mentioned the word "a chemical blowtorch". It is more than just that, ladies and gentlemen. Everytime we use the orthodox form of cancer therapy we are destroying, we are destroying the body's natural defense mechanisms. That I think is the worst thing we could do.

SPEAKER MARVEL: You have two minutes.

SENATOR VENDITTE: I don't know how many physicians in this state support the use of laetrile but certainly there are some in most communities that favor the use, especially by those who cannot be given other forms of treatment or treatments that offer some improvement. Peace of mind and its correlate, freedom from anxiety, are very important in the treatment and care of cancer. You know I think it's important here to bring to light, ladies and gentlemen, a very important action of this Legislature this morning. What would it do, what kind of consequences would it have for people who are now using laetrile? Well, number one, they could go to Blue Cross and Blue Shield and say I am using laetrile, you are going to pay. Well, we are not saying you are going to but Blue Cross and Blue Shield would pay. I have contacted the major medical insurance companies here in the state. With the passage of LB 382, they would recognize laetrile as a form of therapy in treating cancer and, yes, would pay, would pay the cost for that kind of treatment. IRS, the Internal Revenue Service, would then claim that as a legal medical deduction. Right now the people of this great state are not being given...

SPEAKER MARVEL: Thirty seconds.