

May 7, 1979

LB 382

and then Senator Labeledz. Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Okay, have we got the right request there? 2915, is that the one you've got? Okay. Mr. President, Senator Venditte has a half hour for this bill. I certainly do not want to abuse his time. I'll lay things out real quickly for you. It's my understanding that laetrile in the present form in the present bill will not be legal despite our action. If we were to pass it immediately overwhelmingly it still would not be legal, still no more accessible. Legislation has been developed on model guidelines on a couple of drugs, laetrile and marijuana, to put them under the control of the FDA, under the control of the medical people, and to have them available for experimental and developmental purposes to learn whether there really are benefits or not through these, and to make sure that there aren't abuses during the time the study is done, and to make sure that they are tightly controlled by medical personnel. That is in essence what the amendment I propose does on both laetrile and marijuana. It would make it accessible on experimental basis, under very controlled conditions in compliance with FDA, the same with marijuana. Now, the laetrile people, so you have it real straight... the marijuana thing probably I think could go on its own, in the poll in Nebraska which you have a copy of 83 percent of the people approved the experimental use and control of this under these circumstances. A similar poll in Pennsylvania, about 84 percent approved it. Yesterday or last week in Iowa the Legislature over there approved it 44 cr 43 to 4, in other words of a ratio of about 10 to 1. Marijuana, despite the fact that it has like so many drugs has been abused does have certain chemical elements that can be produced and can be used for the treatment of glaucoma. Now, heroin, heroin as we know is one of the most abused drugs there was. Heroin, morphine, also morphine which came from it saved tens of thousands of lives in World War II and subsequently. So the point I'm trying to get across is very simply this, the very drugs and herbs that are abused also can be used for beneficial purposes. What I'm trying to do in this amendment is take both laetrile and marijuana, where some people contend each of these has some benefits, put them in a controlled environment under medical people in compliance with FDA, and see if we can't learn more about them and under prescribed conditions have them available. I submit to you that the ones that are strongly in favor of the laetrile, this is probably the best way to get a bill passed on this subject that is reasonable and workable and that will pass. I really wonder if it can pass without something like this, and if you do pass it what good is it if you still have no access or use to it. So I suggest that

4779