

May 7, 1979

LB 382

we have to recognize those who want to speak on that amendment. The floor is yours.

SENATOR VENDITTE: Okay, thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature. Well, again Mr. Speaker, I would like to reiterate a couple of things that I think are very important and I'd like to just digress just a little bit. It seems to me that the proponents of marijuana all over the country have been people affiliated with what we call the National Organization for the Repeal of Marijuana Laws, and it has been...it has been a very much a part of their effort to do just exactly what we're doing here this afternoon, this very day, this very minute. Three years ago when I came into the Legislature, the National Organization for the Repeal of Marijuana Laws wanted to do three things, ladies and gentlemen. They wanted to do three things. The first thing they wanted to do was decriminalize marijuana in small amounts. We did just that here one year ago. Unfortunately, I supported that. The second thing they wanted to do in their effort was to have marijuana used for medicinal purposes. That we're attempting to do here. Seven other states have done similar. The third thing they want is complete legalization of marijuana. It seems that so far we have followed just in their plans. I submit to everyone in here, and I have talked to a number of people in the medical profession, that there are drugs right now on the market that will do, and that are doing just exactly what marijuana will do. Now the concern that these people have is simply this, they don't know what the ill effects of marijuana will be. It hasn't been around long enough at least in the scientific community to realize what kinds of ill effects marijuana would have for that person suffering from glaucoma or any other eye disease or infection. I think we're treading on very thin water when we're attempting to at least insert this kind of legislation in this bill, and Mr. Speaker, I guess at this point I would have to ask clarification of the Chair as to the germaneness of this particular amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Okay, the Legislature will be at ease for a moment till we make a decision. Senator Venditte, in a quick perusal of both the present bill and the amendment, it would appear that we are talking in both bills about laetrile and we're also talking about therapeutic methods of healing and therefore it appears to the Chair that the amendment is germane.

SENATOR VENDITTE: Mr. Speaker, could I just add one thing, just as a matter of information to the Chair?