

May 10, 1979

LB 382

to laetrile. Now think about that. Now you have heard me talk, there is many, many other points and I won't repeat that because I want to get this vote up before the thirty minutes is over in deference to Senator Labeledz and my good friend, Senator Venditte and Senator Kahle, but I urge you to stop the debate now by taking quick and decisive action and killing LB 382.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is the indefinite postponement of the bill, LB 382. Is there any discussion? Senator Marsh.

SENATOR MARSH: Mr. Speaker, one of the reasons I feel it is important that we consider carefully this vote on indefinite postponement is because of the bulk of my mail which has come from the informed medical source. I am quoting from one of the physicians who is a constituent of mine who is not a friend. He is an acquaintance. "LB 382 is a dangerous piece of legislation. You should be aware, Shirley, that carefully controlled clinical trials under the auspices of the National Cancer Institute are in progress. Other studies thus far do not validate the effectiveness of laetrile. The current study by the National Cancer Institute was undertaken because of the popularity of those promoting laetrile. Earlier in the year I sent to Senator Venditte, sponsor of the bill, an article from the New England Journal of Medicine describing the death of a young child who had taken a small handful of laetrile tablets. This was an accidental poisoning. The child died of cyanide poisoning secondary to the active laetrile ingredient." Thank you for listening.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Kennedy, do you wish to speak to the kill motion?

SENATOR KENNEDY: Yes, and I again would try and be brief. I did talk once on the subject. I guess in the background I have certain history but also I wish many of you had friends and had doctors, bankers, relatives in other states where this privilege has already been tried and the problems they are now having. Insurance companies, and these are facts that you can find out for yourself in the states that have voted for this, those insurance companies do not have to and will not, in many, many cases have refused to put it on because it is not legal by the national standard. So I don't think we are helping the people that we think we are helping and I am fearful that we are avoiding, as I said the other day, please, and many, many times we vote from the heart and the pocketbook. I know we do here on the floor in our concerns but let's use not just sympathy and not just