

February 10, 1982

LB 212

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Kilgarin, the E & R amendments.

SENATOR KILGARIN: I move the E & R amendments to LB 212.

SENATOR CLARK: You heard the motion. All those in favor say aye, opposed. The E & R amendments are adopted.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Vard Johnson moves to amend the amendments on page 481 of the Journal.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Johnson.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, you can turn to the Journal on page 481 and read the amendments and you can't understand them. I have been reading them myself and I still can't understand them but I know what they do. They are very simple amendments. When the committee advanced 212 to the floor, it concluded that information given to the State Health Department should not include the name and the address of the particular victim of cancer, that all the information should show any identifying characteristic of the victim or the sufferer should be a Social Security number. So the amendment...one thing the amendment does is it does reinsert the name and address of the cancer sufferer. Now the reasons for that...one of the principal reasons is that the Department of Health has indicated that you need to have a name and address just so you can have a thorough tracking system. Secondly, and I know that you will all understand this one, there are a number of cancer sufferers who are children. They have leukemia and they don't have Social Security numbers, and so it is just important to have the name and the address of the cancer sufferer. There are many protections built into the bill that deal with confidentiality and the like. Name and addresses incidentally are used in a variety of reporting mechanisms that we presently have in place, such as venereal disease reporting mechanisms and right on down the line. It is a relatively innocuous change but it is necessary to make the cancer registry work. The second thing that the amendment does is this. When the committee reported the bill out, it said every hospital in this state shall provide the cancer information but there is no penalty if the hospital doesn't provide the cancer information, and there shouldn't be any penalty if a hospital doesn't provide the cancer information. I wouldn't want to criminalize that conduct. I wouldn't want to fine that conduct. But one thing I would want to be able to do is to make certain that we could go into the hospital and pick up the cancer information. That is all. So what the amendment does is it reinstates an old provision which just says that