

society. A corpse is sacred. If I go out to the cemetery and dig up a box and drag the corpse out and cut the ear off, the whole world is outraged. If I meet somebody on the street and I don't like his or her looks and I cut that ear off, well, that is the price you pay for living in this kind of society. So the corpse is sacred. That having been established, are you going to allow the state to desecrate this corpse simply because the person whose corpse it is did not say, prior to becoming a corpse, I don't want my corpse desecrated? This is a bill that would allow a part of the body to be taken if the person, prior to death, did not say specifically, don't take it. So then you are going to say, don't take my kidneys. Well, he said don't take his kidneys. He didn't say his heart so we'll take his heart. Well, don't take my heart either. If you don't know every part of the body and designate that you don't want that to be taken, you may be putting in position a policy that says whatever is not specifically exempted by the person, while alive, can be taken upon death. If that is what the policy of the state is to be, we should deal with that issue, not on a piecemeal basis like this where you nip at the corpse as a Legislature in the same way that ants, other vermin or those whose job it is to dispose of dead tissue would do. We should take the issue and say, is the greater good of society...

PRESIDENT: One minute, Senator.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...so important that it over-balances any interest that a person, who occupied a corpse, would have in that corpse after he or she no longer occupies it. That is the way the issue should be framed and deal with it. If you think once a person is dead, whatever life is has left the body, and the body becomes a possession of the state to handle as it sees fit, that is what we ought to say. This bill deals with profound legal issues and it is not a Public Health matter. It ought to stay in the Judiciary Committee where the Executive Board, acting as the Reference Committee, after full and thorough discussion, referred it.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I would like, also, to oppose the motion. I want to assert to you, very strongly, that we are trying the best we can to stick to principles and not to shift bills around on the