

March 19, 1976

I'm not going to take a lot of time. There is merit in Senator Lewis' comment. I would also like to point out that there is merit in what Senator Burbach has said. I would like to also remind you that this bill, controversial as it is, and important as it is both again to myself, to the proponents and the opponents, is no more so nor less so than dozens and dozens of bills.

The adoption of the Goodrich motion would not preclude consideration of amendments by any individual who wishes to propose an amendment. The adoption would simply expedite the process. I would like to point out to you the doctor, the medical profession, have been castigated here frequently and repeatedly. They are not the only individuals involved in this. I have attempted to walk the narrow line between the medical profession and the legal profession. I have listened to Charlie Noren, my good friend, and I have listened to the doctors. I think I hear Charlie Noren speaking to me now "Go section, by section, by section. Line by line by line. Word by word by word. Take your time. Don't be hasty. We'll look bad". Let me tell you, we look just as bad if we adhere to the pressure from one side as from the other.

I have been convinced for some time, as I think most of you have been, that this situation needs to be resolved. I think it can be resolved by the adoption of the Goodrich amendment. I do not think we need to look bad. I will adhere to Senator Lewis' request. We can come back and take any amendment to any section that is remaining and consider it at great length. I think that's the thing we should do. I'm going to do that.

I've stood here before you today and I have accepted amendments which have virtually done what the legal profession wants done. I've done so in an attempt to compromise and to get something moving and to expedite the work of this Legislature. If that is wrong then I plead guilty to that. I have been accused of selling out to the doctors. I've been accused by the doctors of selling out to the legal profession. I have not done either. I challenge you to point out where I've done so.

There has been a direct reference to one section of the bill that is wrong. Senator Chambers, I know that in this kind of discussion it's easy to misunderstand or to misinterpret or even not to read it all. I can't, upon an instant's notice, tell you everything that's in every single section of this bill. But I think I know it pretty well. I think the members of this body understand this bill better than we have most bills that have been offered to this body.

I would hope that we would not debate this motion at great length. I would hope that we would act upon it and that we would act in support of Senator Goodrich's motion and do so tonight and whatever time is necessary to consider further amendments will be taken in the proper time.